

QUARTERLY ISSUES PROGRAM

LIST FOR

WWLP – SPRINGFIELD, MA

Issues Program List Herein
Covers the Period
JANUARY 1, 2008 through MARCH 31, 2008

The following is WWLP programming addressing Crime during the 1ST quarter of 2008. These issues were addressed through our locally produced news programming.

News 01/01/08 5am : 30

In Springfield, 22 year old Robert Marinello was stabbed around 2AM at 314 Fountain Street. Springfield Police Lt. John Bobianinski says Marienello was stabbed in the stomach after an altercation at a house party. Marinello was sent to Baystate with life threatening injuries. Just an hour earlier around 1AM, two men walked into Mercy Medical Center with stab wounds. Lt. Bobianinski says one man suffered 3 to 4 stab wounds to his chest; he is expected to be ok. The other man was stabbed in the wrist. He was treated released. Police believe the stabbings happened during a fight at Club Atlantic on Liberty Street.

News 01/01/08 5am : 30

A Holyoke mother and her son were injured by a drunk driver at 3AM this morning at the corner of Pleasant and Allen Street. Sgt. Larry Conoyer says that police think the pair was getting out of their parked car when a drunk driver hit their car. Both mother and son are expected to have only minor injuries. The driver was a 21 year old woman and Holyoke resident. She was arrested for driving under the influence.

News 01/01/08 5am : 30

Twelve year old boy is in big trouble with the law after allegedly leading Holyoke police on a chase in a stolen car. The boy, whose name was not released because of his age, was charged with resisting arrest, disorderly conduct, receiving a stolen vehicle and several motor vehicle charges. According to Holyoke police, the car came to the attention of police around 4 a.m. Sunday because it was operating with its headlights off.

News 01/03/08 6pm : 30

Two former Hampden County prison guards are sentenced in an inmate sex-case. Stanford Norman was sentenced today to serve two to three years in prison after being convicted of having sex with an inmate in 2006. At the time, he was a corrections officer at the Hampden County Correctional Center in Ludlow. Another guard, Brian Murphy was given two year's probation. Prosecutors say Murphy called the inmate to the facility's medical unit so Norman could have sex with her.

News 01/05/08 9am : 30

A January 23rd trial date has been set for three men charged in an alleged mob-related shakedown in Springfield. Prosecutors say one of them, Anthony Arillotta, was the top

lieutenant of mob boss Al Bruno, who was gunned down in November 2003 outside a Springfield social club. Arillotta is charged with extortion conspiracy. He and two brothers, Fotios and Ty Geas, are accused of trying to shake down two video-poker machine owners in 2004.

News **01/05/08** **11pm** **: 30**

A Westfield man allegedly went after several people with a hammer in downtown Springfield; 22 year old Vincent Altamura, lives at 29 Otis Street in Westfield. He's alleged to have terrorized several people with a hammer shortly after 2AM this morning in downtown Springfield. Altamura began taunting his would be victims as they crossed Chestnut Street at the Worthington Street intersection. He then reportedly got a hammer out his car and started chasing them for several blocks, but they avoided his lunging at them. Police charged Altamura with 3 counts of assault with a dangerous weapon.

News **01/05/08** **11pm** **: 30**

29 year old Eric Seay of 340 Amostown Road was arrested for allegedly robbing the State Street Springfield branch of United Bank Friday afternoon. Lt. John Slepchuck says Seay is alleged to be the man who slipped a note to the teller demanding and receiving cash. Then some ten hours later about 2:30AM this morning, West Springfield police nabbed the bank robbery suspect at the Cumberland Farms convenience store on Park Street.

News **01/08/08** **12pm** **: 30**

A Springfield man will spend the rest of his life in prison for murdering the owner of a business in downtown Springfield. 22 year old Pablo Carambot was sentenced to life in prison. Carambot had pleaded guilty last month in connection with the 2005 fatal shooting of Young Man Kim. 64 year old Kim was killed during a robbery at his beauty supply shop across from the MassMutual Center on Main Street. Carambot will be eligible for parole after serving 15 years of his life sentence.

News **01/09/08** **12pm** **: 30**

A published report says the Director of Operations at the Hampden County District Attorney's Office has been suspended following a sexual harassment complaint by a staff member in the office. The Associated Press is reporting Raymond Feyre was suspended last month by DA William Bennett after the allegation against Feyre was made by Deputy Director of Operations Martha Murphy Kane after the two attended a convention. The DA and Feyre both declined comment.

News **01/10/08** **6am** **: 30**

A bus driver is facing charges after being accused of driving children to school while drunk. 47 year old Ramona Jennings was allegedly seen by other drivers driving erratically and was heard slurring her words. The other drivers convinced her to pull over. Her blood alcohol level was measured at .34. She had already driven 77 children from three schools that day.

News **01/11/08** **12pm** **: 30**

A teenager in Northampton is in the hospital after falling down a flight of stairs and one of her peers has been charged in connection with the incident. The 18 year old Northampton High School student suffered skull fractures after another student allegedly shoved her down the stairs. Police have charged La Asia Michelle Moore with assault. Police said the girls were involved in some sort of dispute this week. Moore pleaded not guilty to the charges.

News **01/13/08** **7:30am** **: 30**

A toddler has been declared brain dead after being beaten by his babysitter. 19 month old Elijah Gasque collapsed to the floor, not breathing and started to have seizures while under the care of a babysitter in Hartford. The babysitter called Elijah's mother, Julie Atkins Gasque, in a panic claiming the injuries occurred while playing "Ring around the Rosie". The babysitter later confessed to police; she brutally beat the toddler causing the massive head injuries. The babysitter is now in police custody.

News **01/14/08** **5:30am** **: 30**

In Springfield, one person is recovering after being shot in the back during a party outside a building on Leyfred Terrace. Police Capt. Peter Dillon says that police arrested 18 year old Steven Santiago after he allegedly fired into a crowd of people at the party hitting one man in the back. The victim was treated at Baystate Medical Center and is expected to be okay. Two other people were arrested for attacking police officers who responded to the call.

News **01/14/08** **12pm** **: 30**

A news conference is scheduled for this afternoon with Danny Croteau's parents after the release of files related to their son's 1972 murder. A judge ordered the Hampden County District Attorney to release the files after rejecting arguments that doing so would discourage new witnesses from coming forward. Defrocked priest Richard Lavigne was the prime suspect in the 13 year old boy's murder. Lavigne was never charged in the killing and has denied any involvement. Lavigne was the Croteau family's parish priest.

News **01/14/08** **12pm** **: 30**

A teen from Springfield will spend the next five years in prison. 18-year old Stephon Dawson pleaded guilty to assault and weapons charges following a shooting that wounded another man and a 12 year old boy. He will serve his sentence at the Hampden County House of Correction in Ludlow.

News **01/16/08** **12pm** **: 30**

A Springfield man denied charges of killing a man in his Forest Park home late Monday night. 25 year old Larry Irby was arraigned yesterday on one count of murder and ordered held without bail. Irby is charged with the murder of 38 year old Ronald Fortin of East

Longmeadow. The murder happened at 25 Trillium Street. Springfield police got the call to the home at around 10:30PM on Monday. At the scene, police found Fortin suffering from head wounds. He was taken to Baystate Medical Center, where he died hours later. This marks Springfield's first murder of 2008. Larry Irby is scheduled to return to court on February 25.

News **01/16/08** **6pm** **: 30**

A man is under arrest for stabbing his ex-girlfriend's current boyfriend. According to Springfield Police Spokewoman Marcia Brown that man forced his way into a home at 169 Maple Street in Springfield by posing as a police officer. Then he allegedly stabbed the woman's new boyfriend in the chest. The victim was taken to Baystate Medical Center with non-life threatening injuries. He has since been released. Brown says 39 year old Luis Padua is under arrest for armed burglary, assault and battery with a dangerous weapon with intent to murder and impersonating a police officer.

News **01/16/08** **6pm** **: 30**

A Springfield woman is recovering after being stabbed in the stomach. Police were called to 127 Spring Street at around 12:30AM. Springfield Police Spokeswoman Marcia Brown says that 22 year old Springfield resident Devon Everett broke into an apartment and stabbed his 22 year old girlfriend in the abdomen. The woman was holding their six month old baby at the time. During the attack the, baby fell down several stairs, but is okay. Officer Brown said the woman was in the process of breaking off her relationship with Everett. Devon Everett is charged with two counts of assault and battery, attempted murder, and reckless endangerment of a child.

News **01/18/08** **12pm** **: 30**

The man accused of throwing a puppy out of a three story window in Springfield is being held without the right to bail. 19 year old Jacques Coleman will be held for 90 days after being arraigned on charges of animal cruelty, breaking and entering, assault and battery and intimidating a witness. His attorney claims Coleman wasn't in the apartment at the time the puppy was tossed out the window last week.

News **01/18/08** **12pm** **: 30**

Authorities say the man who killed two people this summer in Greenfield threatened to murder more people, even though he was behind bars. And Franklin County Jail officials wanted him off their hands. 44 year old Robin Hoose of Greenfield has been in jail since the July for double murders of 45 year old Irene Pierce of Montague and 33 year old Frank Blanchard of Springfield. Since then officials at the Franklin County Jail say they have been facing death threats from Hoose. So the inmate has been transferred to a maximum security prison in Shirley that is more equipped to handle problem prisoners.

News **01/18/08** **12pm** **: 30**

Longmeadow Police Captain Robert Siano says police are treating this case as a tragic accident. It happened at around 5:45 Wednesday night on Severn Street in the north end of town. According to Captain Siano the two year old's mother went out to run errands when the young girl somehow ended-up being run over by the family's SUV. No charges are expected to be filed.

News **01/18/08** **12pm** **: 30**

A suspect has been arrested in connection with a two-year old murder case. Springfield Police Captain Joseph Paryalak says that the police arrested 28 year old Amado Marmol just before 6PM at the intersection of Dover and Main Street in Springfield. Marmol was wanted for stabbing to death 53 year old Richard Dellagiustina in May of 2005. Marmol was also wanted on a fugitive from justice warrant out of New York. He will be arraigned today in Springfield District Court.

News **01/19/08** **6:30am** **: 30**

Pittsfield police arrested a man who tried to enter a burning apartment building. The fire broke out at 8 White Terrace, off of North Street. Witnesses say an unidentified man started yelling and screaming and tried to enter the building. Police charged the man with disorderly conduct. We are told everyone got out of the three story building safely.

News **01/19/08** **11pm** **: 30**

Two Springfield men are lucky to be alive having to survive a drive-by shooting. They were among a group of men that drive-by shooters targeted at the site of a former church in the north end of the city. According to Springfield Police Lt Robert Moynihan, the shooting victims gave officers vague descriptions of the men who fired five shots at them as they entered the Memorial Parish building at 2309 Main Street. The shootings took place at the church street side of the building. One man was wounded in the knee, the other in the left calf. The victims, both in their early 30s, were taken to Baystate Medical Center.

News **01/20/08** **6pm** **: 30**

In Springfield's downtown entertainment district two holdup men confronted a Taylor Street parking lot attendant with a silver handgun around midnight and threatened to kill him if the robbery victim didn't give them all of his money. Springfield Police Lt. Robert Moynihan says the two of them got away. He said they confronted the parking lot employee in a Taylor Street alleyway. The men, one described as Hispanic and the other as African American had reportedly been seen in a Honda with Connecticut license plates.

News **01/22/08** **12pm** **: 30**

Police have charged two men in connection with the disappearance of a young mother. 17 year old Felicia Mikels and her 6 week old baby were reported missing on Friday. Saturday the infant was found abandoned on the side of a street in a car seat. Authorities still have not found Mikels, but believe her body is in this creek. They've charged her uncle with murder

and another man as an accomplice. Police believe the two men beat the teen to death, dumped her body, then abandoned the baby.

News **01/23/08** **5am** **: 30**

Springfield police made a drug bust last night. It happened just before 7PM at 320 Union Street. Police Captain Peter Dillion says that they recovered 5.8 grams of crack cocaine, two guns and \$650 in cash. All four suspects will be arraigned today in Springfield

News **01/23/08** **6am** **: 30**

Holyoke police arrested a suspect wanted for murder in Philadelphia. Holyoke police Chief Anthony Scott says that the Philadelphia Police Department notified them that the suspect was in Holyoke. Holyoke police arrested Javier Camacho at 149 Leary Drive in Holyoke. He's wanted for shooting two people in the head inside a vehicle on the streets of Philadelphia.

News **01/23/08** **5pm** **: 30**

A massive police search and lockdown at Holyoke's Dean Technical High School this afternoon after two students were deemed intruders. The school went into code white, meaning intruders. Police first had to find the intruders and verify that they were indeed students. A state police helicopter circled overhead as Holyoke and State police descended on Dean Technical High School as police looked inside the school for two students who failed to check in at the office and ran into the school. Since their identities were unknown, police had to verify them and verify that they were students.

After an extensive search, the two students who had run into the school were found in classrooms, and taken out by police to waiting cruisers and taken to the police station.

News **01/23/08** **6pm** **: 30**

The vicious attack on a Ludlow man when he opened his front door early this morning was no random home invasion. Police Sergeant Tom Foley says the two men who beat 28 year old Sean Morris with a baseball bat at his 10-65 Center Street home had targeted him. Sergeant Foley says he hasn't ruled out drugs as the reason for this morning's home invasion. The victim was so badly beaten he's been admitted to Baystate Medical Center. His attackers are still on the loose.

News **01/23/08** **11pm** **: 30**

Springfield police made a prostitution sweep in the city's south end this evening. Springfield Police Captain Peter Dillion says that five alleged prostitutes were arrested. They will be arraigned in Springfield District Court.

News **01/24/08** **5am** **: 30**

A man is in the hospital after being shot outside a bar in Holyoke. Around 1:30AM Holyoke Lt. Willahan said a Hispanic male in his twenty's was shot in the leg just outside the Lafayette

club at 524 South Bridge Street. Friends transported him to the hospital. He is expected to recover. Police are looking into the shooting.

News **01/24/08** **5am** **: 30**

A drug bust in Hampshire County on Interstate 91 puts three people behind bars. State troopers found 15 grams of heroin in a small black car during a routine traffic stop, on 91 North in Hatfield. Riley Charboro and Nathan Menard of New Hampshire and Casey Perkins of Vermont were all arrested and charged with trafficking heroine and conspiracy to violate a drug law. All three are held on \$1,500 cash bail and will re-appear in Hampshire County District Court February 20th.

News **01/24/08** **12pm** **: 30**

An early morning shooting in Holyoke sends one man to the hospital. Holyoke Police Captain Arthur Monfette says that around 1:30AM, 28 year old George Thomas of Holyoke was shot in the leg. It happened just outside the Lafayette Club at 524 South Bridge Street. Friends took Thomas to the hospital where he is expected to recover. Police are looking into the shooting, but Monfette says the victim and witnesses are not cooperating with police.

News **01/25/08** **5am** **: 30**

A Central High School bus, returning from a basketball game in Holyoke, had one of its windows smashed. State Police Trooper Matthew Mielke says the bus was pulling out of Holyoke High School parking around 9PM when a projectile smashed through one of the windows sending glass everywhere and injuring one of the cheerleaders. State Trooper Mielke says he believes it's possible that a rock was thrown at the bus and that it was not an accident. The cheerleader suffered some cuts, but is expected to be ok.

News **01/25/08** **5am** **: 30**

Chicopee police are investigating an armed robbery at a liquor store. A man showed a gun and demanded cash from an employee working at Scrappy's Liquor Locker on East Street. A woman waited outside the store during the robbery. Police are still searching for the suspects.

News **01/25/08** **12pm** **: 30**

The Citizens' Bank at 958 Main Street was robbed just before noon yesterday. Security cameras caught the man approaching a teller with his hand in his pocket indicating he had a gun, but no weapon was shown. The teller gave the man cash and he left. Police are looking for a dark scruffy-faced Hispanic man, about 29 years old, 5-feet-8 tall, 180 pounds. He was wearing a black, possibly leather jacket, and a New York Yankees baseball hat.

News **01/25/08** **11pm** **: 30**

A wrong way police pursuit on Interstate 91 in Springfield happened during the home-bound commute near Exit 4. State police say the driver decided to go northbound in the southbound lanes. The driver got off on the Plainfield Street exit crashing into another car. One person in the vehicle ran away. The other was taken into custody.

State Trooper Sean Dennehy says they do not know if they arrested the driver or the passenger, but they continue to investigate.

News **01/25/08** **11pm** **: 30**

Police have one man under arrest after a burglary in Westhampton. Just after 2PM, state and local police were seen searching for suspects, near a home on Southampton Road. Police the homeowner came home to find two men in his house. Officers continue to search for a second suspect.

News **01/26/08** **7am** **: 30**

A Greenfield mother gets caught in a multi-county drug sweep. Police officers say she was dealing heroin out of her Greenfield home that was part of a drug ring extending into Berkshire County. Acting on a tip from Berkshire county authorities, police arrested 26-year-old Lisa McGirt on Thursday at 28 Water Street. Greenfield Lieutenant Joseph Burge says they cleaned house, confiscating 370 bags of heroin and an unloaded handgun. McGirt was arraigned on drug charges and has not posted bail of ten thousand dollars.

News **01/26/08** **6pm** **: 30**

A stroke of good luck saves a Springfield woman from possibly being shot to death early this morning when as many as half a dozen bullets ripped through her home. Something told her not to go out to the enclosed porch at 57 Grand Street as she frequently does about two o'clock in the morning. That's when someone fired seven rounds from two different guns according to Springfield Police Captain John Barbieri. Captain Barbieri seriously doubts that the gunmen were targeting the Jenkins. Barbieri's hopes the shell casings bring police to the ones responsible for the shooting.

News **01/26/08** **11pm** **: 30**

In Greenfield a bar room brawl turns bloody during the early morning hours. One man is behind bars, police say he stabbed a city man leaving him critically injured. According to Greenfield police 33 year old Caesar Villanueva and 28 year old Taurus Williams went head-to-head inside Alberti's Bar & Grille Saturday morning. Police arrested Villanueva outside the bar charging him with assault to murder and indecent exposure after witnessing him urinating on main street.

News **01/27/08** **7am** **: 30**

Police put the breaks on sizable drag racing plot. Officers were called to East Springfield at Industry Avenue and Cottage streets and witnessed cars racing each other at high rates of

speed. Captain John Barbieri said they found 20 vehicles lined up and ready to race. One man was arrested and his car impounded. Several cars were cited for various violations.

News **01/28/08** **11pm** **: 30**

A man and woman are under arrest after allegedly stealing a car in Chicopee. Chicopee Police Captain, Steven Muse says a woman went into the 7/11 convenience store on Granby Road, leaving her keys in the car. When she came out she saw her car pulling away. A woman suspect sped off leaving her male friend. Police saw the stolen car, and stopped the suspect after a short chase on Montgomery Road. Both the male and female suspects will be arraigned in Chicopee District Court.

News **01/28/08** **11pm** **: 30**

The Springfield Police Vice Unit busted three men and accused them of possessing heroin. Police arrested 31 year old Juan Rivera, 40 year old Luis Rios, and 22 year old Eduardo Franco. All face charges of possession of heroin with intent to distribute; conspiracy to violate narcotic drug laws, and violation of a drug free school zone. Police also seized 24 "bundles" of heroin; a cell phone and \$1,153 in cash. The men were arrested within 1000 feet of the Gerena Elementary School.

News **01/29/08** **5pm** **: 30**

A 20 year old former Ludlow man was ordered held on \$250,000 cash bail or \$2.5 million dollars surety in connection with a home invasion in Ludlow. Michael MacKintosh turned himself into police last night. In Palmer District Court today he pleaded not guilty to home invasion, assault and battery with a dangerous weapon and numerous other charges. Mackintosh is accused of beating 20 year old Sean Morris with a baseball bat during a home invasion in Ludlow last week. A second suspect, 20 year old John Hallums of Springfield remains on the loose. Ludlow Police Sergeant Thomas Foye says this was not a random act.

News **01/29/08** **5pm** **: 30**

A suspect is still on the loose after a late night car chase through Springfield. Police are still searching for this man, 26 year old Jonathan Hall, of Northfield. State Trooper Dan Kelly of the Springfield barracks says that Hall has numerous warrants out for his arrest and when police tried to pull him over around 11PM last night, he failed to stop leading to a chase through Springfield streets. Hall eventually stopped on Demond Avenue and took off on foot. State police sent the canine unit and the helicopter to aid in the search, but their efforts were unsuccessful.

News **01/29/08** **6pm** **: 30**

A Springfield jury has acquitted three men of charges they tried to extort money from owners of video poker machines. Anthony Arillotta and brothers Fotios Geas and Ty Geas were acquitted by a Hampden Superior Court jury, which returned its verdict Tuesday. They had been charged with trying to extort payments after local mob boss Al Bruno was shot to death

in November 2003. The acquittal does not mean they can go free, however. Fotios Geas is one of three men charged with Bruno's murder and is being held without bail while awaiting trial. Ty Geas' attorney says he completed a recent prison term for assault and returned home to his family Tuesday. Arillotta is scheduled to complete a prison term this spring.

News **01/30/08** **6am** **: 30**

A newly unsealed indictment accuses a former Agawam man of threatening to attack the Springfield federal building using toxic materials. According to the Associated Press, Michael Crooker faces charges including possession of toxins for use as a weapon, and threatening to use a weapon of mass destruction. Federal prosecutors say police found Ricin and Abrin in the forms of castor beans and rosary peas, during a search of Crooker's house in 2004. Both substances are naturally occurring poisons found in plant seeds. Police arrested Crooker in 2004 on charges of mailing a silencer that could fit on a rifle. He is currently incarcerated in federal prison in California. No word whether Crooker has an attorney.

News **01/31/08** **6am** **: 30**

The leader of the region's largest cocaine ring is headed to prison. Daniel Rice, Jr. from Deerfield will serve up to 10 years behind bars after pleading guilty to narcotics charges. Prosecutors say the 24 year old man led a drug ring that included his mother and brother, and controlled much of the drug sales in Franklin and Hampshire counties.

News **02/01/08** **5am** **: 30**

Chicopee police say they've arrested a 31 year old Boston man and charged him in a machete attack on a gas station owner earlier this month. Pablo Orantes faces charges of assault and robbery. The victim underwent surgery for machete wounds on his head, face and arm, but is expected to recover. Police say they're still searching for a second suspect.

News **02/01/08** **5am** **: 30**

No arrest so far in the year's second homicide in Springfield. Police have identified the victim as 45 year old Angelo Daniels of Springfield. Daniels was found in the driveway of 131 Leyfred Terrace early yesterday morning. He had been shot several times. Daniels was taken to Baystate Medical Center where he died. Police believe Daniels was not shot where he was found, so they continue to search for a scene and a suspect.

News **02/04/08** **5pm** **: 30**

Police are looking for a man who held up a TD Banknorth branch in West Springfield. According to investigators a man walked into the Riverdale Road branch around 11:55AM this morning with a note demanding money. Witnesses describe the suspect only as a black male. West Springfield police say the alleged robber fled on foot in a south bound direction after a female teller handed him an undisclosed amount of cash. No one was injured in the incident.

News **02/04/08** **11pm** **: 30**

Two people are fighting for their lives after being stabbed and slashed with a machete. Springfield Police Captain Peter Dillon says that a disturbance broke just after 7pm on the corner of Saratoga and Main Street. When officers arrived, Captain Dillon says 24 year old Allen Manning ran away. Later they found three people suffering from stab wounds. A man cut in the throat and a woman in the hand. Both have wounds that are considered life threatening. Another victim was stabbed in the back. All of the victims are at Baystate Medical Center. Police arrested Alan Manning, who faces arraignment in Springfield District Court.

News **02/05/08** **11pm** **: 30**

In Springfield, Parker Street is closed at this hour after a small pickup slammed into a utility pole. It happened just after seven o'clock tonight at 1579 Parker Street. The Western Massachusetts Electric Company says nearly 2,000 homes had their power knocked out because of the crash.

News **02/06/08** **12pm** **: 30**

In Springfield a city police officer has been stabbed. The incident happened around 11am on Knollwood Street. Springfield Police Sergeant John Delaney says the officer was stabbed once in the chest. According to Sgt. Delaney the officer was conscious and was transported to Baystate Medical Center. Delaney says a juvenile is in custody.

News **02/06/08** **11pm** **: 30**

In Hartford, Connecticut a Pastor has been sentenced to 24 years in prison for sexually assaulting two girls who became pregnant after the abuse. A Pentecostal pastor, Modesto Reyes was sentenced to consecutive 12-year terms, one for each victim.

News **02/08/08** **6:30am** **: 30**

A UMass lacrosse player has been arrested after last Friday's fight on North Pleasant Street where lacrosse sticks were allegedly used as weapons. Amherst police Lieutenant Ronald Young says that nineteen year old Christian Haggerty was arrested yesterday and charged with breaking and entering and assault and battery. He will be arraigned in Eastern Hampshire District Court. Lt. Young says more arrests may happen in the case. Recently 8 lacrosse players were suspended. But authorities have not confirmed it was because of this incident.

News **02/08/08** **5pm** **: 30**

Springfield police are looking for help in catching some robbery suspects. There is surveillance camera pictures of an alleged robbery in progress at Tedeshi Foods located at 808 Main Street in Springfield. According to Springfield police spokesperson Marcia Brown,

the robbery took place around 10pm on Monday February 4th, several suspect allegedly took part in the robbery.

News **02/08/08** **5pm** **: 30**

The Springfield Vice Control Bureau conducted a prostitution sweep last night in the city's south end. Eleven suspects were arrested in the lower Belmont Ave corridor, south Main Street, Hancock, Spring and School Street areas. According to Springfield police, many undercover male and female officers were used in the sweep. Police Sergeant John Delaney says all the females who were arrested face prostitution charges. All the males arrested face charges of sexual conduct for a fee.

News **02/08/08** **6pm** **: 30**

A Springfield police officer allegedly involved in a fight with a police lieutenant was arraigned today on assault and battery charges. A not guilty plea was entered for Officer Derek Cook. According to Captain Robert Cheetham, Cook is returning to duty February 11th. The lieutenant involved is listed as injured but still on duty. The two allegedly had a shouting match at police headquarters that then turned physical.

News **02/08/08** **11pm** **: 30**

A Springfield man will be spending one year in jail after admitting he threw a puppy from a third floor apartment. Jacques Coleman's guilty plea comes one month after that incident. Police said he tossed this pit-bull pup from a third floor porch during a fight with his ex-girlfriend. He's been sentenced to serve one year in the Hampden County House of Corrections. Animal advocates say justice is served. Their freedom is taken from them because it is a disgusting horrible thing when animals are victimized. MSPCA Officer Christine Allenberg believes the cycle of violence that leads row animal abuse can be interrupted with jail time.

News **02/09/08** **6:30am** **: 30**

Thieves continue to target vehicles in Longmeadow overnight. Police are investigating over three dozen robberies dating back three weeks. In this latest stealing spree, roughly 20 cars were broken into. Though police didn't find any smashed glass or pried doors, because all of the vehicles targeted were left unlocked! Longmeadow Sergeant Andrew Fullerton says the breaks are happening in the vicinity of Route 5 and Converse Street neighborhoods. Around 1AM this morning, a Wenonah Road resident spotted someone rifling through his car and called police. They responded and chased two suspects on foot for several minutes through two side streets and neighborhoods. Police were unable to nab them. Over the past three weeks about 40 vehicles have been the target of thieves. Again, each door left unlocked allowing countless GPS units, satellite radios, and wallets to be lifted with ease. Police are urging residents to lock their car doors when not attended to avoid situations like this. As for a suspect, police can only describe one as a white male, 18 to 20 years old.

News **02/09/08** **6:30am** **: 30**

In Springfield, police responded to the 5th alarm parking lot at 775 Worthington Street. People on scene called 911 saying a man was firing a gun in the air. No one was hit, but police found shell casings in the area. So far no arrests have been made.

News **02/09/08** **6am** **: 30**

In Connecticut, a woman is awaiting trial on charges of trying to poison her husband. And now accused of a hiring someone to kill him. Jennifer Ratti has been behind bars since last spring after being arrested for attempted murder and assault charges. Prosecutors say she tried to plan the "murder for hire" plot to kill her ex-husband from her jail cell. Ratti's attorney did not return phone calls. She is being held on \$1 million bond.

News **02/09/08** **6pm** **: 30**

Springfield police today arrested the driver of a car that had reportedly sped away from the scene of a nightclub parking lot shooting several hours earlier. Springfield Police Captain Charles Arpin says, someone fire off shots in the parking lot of the Worthington Street club known as the Fifth Alarm. Later, police arrested 19 year old Ricardo Alberto Rosa at Rosa's home on Boyer Street halfway across the city. Arpin said they charged Rosa with being an alleged cocaine dealer and illegally having body armor in the trunk of his car. But since officers didn't find a gun, he wasn't charged with the parking lot shooting.

News **02/10/08** **7am** **: 30**

In Westfield one person is behind bars, and another sent to the hospital after several violent incidents erupt at a local bar. Westfield Sgt. Jerome Pitoniak says his officers were dispatched to the Whip City Brew on North Elm Street just after one o'clock this morning, to a patron in need of medical attention after presumably punching a mirror and cutting his hand. Then in an unrelated incident, a large fight broke out on the patio outside. State Police in the area assist to break up the brawl, during this hectic scene, a third incident. Police used pepper spray on a man who they say was causing trouble and resisting arrest. The man who punched the mirror was taken to Noble Hospital. No one was taken in for the fight, because everyone fled the scene. Sgt. Pitoniak says that the Whip City Brew is normally tame.

News **02/10/08** **7am** **: 30**

Police found one shell casing after a confrontation turned violent in front of Fresno's Bar in downtown Springfield. Lt. John Slepchuck said a gunshot was fired after a ruckus at 1011 East Columbus Avenue. He said police are searching for at least one witness who may have been involved in the initial fight to help lead to any suspects involved with the violence.

News **02/11/08** **5pm** **: 30**

A local businesswoman had a scare while attempting to make a deposit at a Chicopee bank. It was 3:30pm when the victim parked her vehicle close to the rear entrance of the Bank of America on Cabot Street. As she was walking from the car to the bank, a black male dressed

in "all black" ran at her with a silver hand gun and demanded cash. The robber fled on foot with a bag full of money from a local business. Chicopee police are still in the process of interviewing witnesses. No suspect has been identified.

News **02/11/08** **5pm** **: 30**

Holyoke police are making a dent in crime: 7 alleged drug dealers, 2 accused child rapists and a juvenile who allegedly carried a knife to school were among those taken off the streets of Holyoke in the last five days. Holyoke Police Chief Anthony Scott says these are significant arrests.

News **02/11/08** **11pm** **: 30**

A former Amherst Regional High School Science teacher will spend at least two and a half years behind bars for multiple child pornography convictions. Judge Mary Lou Roop ordered Robert Garney to serve 2 ½ to 3 years at MCI Cedar Junction. Garney pleaded guilty to several counts of possession of child porn earlier this year. The judge ordered 10 years probation, and that Garney wear a GPS tracking device after his release. Judge Roop went on to recommend that Garney do his time at a county jail instead of state prison. And the judge further ordered Garney to undergo sex offender treatment, and forbid him from having an unsupervised contact with children under the age of 18.

News **02/12/08** **11pm** **: 30**

In Springfield, a laptop with some teachers' social security information has been stolen. Schools Superintendent Dr. Joseph Burke says the theft took place Wednesday or Thursday of last week. Approximately 300 public school teacher's social security numbers are on the stolen laptop's hard drive. Dr. Burke believes the laptop was taken from an office on the second floor of the school department at 195 State Street. He says police have a suspect in the case.

News **02/13/08** **5pm** **: 30**

In Enfield, police are looking for a man wanted for allegedly holding up the People's United Bank on 25 Hazard Avenue in Enfield around 11:30am. According to Enfield Police, the suspect is believed to be in his mid 20's. He was last seen running towards the Commuter Parking Lot. And he escaped with an undetermined amount of money.

News **02/14/08** **12pm** **: 30**

Springfield police are looking into the death of an infant. The call came in around 1:30am from 102 Clifton Avenue according to Sgt. John Delaney. A four month old boy was rushed to Baystate Medical Center where he later died. Springfield detectives are awaiting results of an autopsy scheduled for today. Springfield detectives say the death does not appear to be suspicious at this time.

News **02/15/08** **6pm** **: 30**

Agawam High School went into lockdown around 9AM this morning. Agawam police Lieutenant Richard Light says police used eight drug sniffing dogs to conduct a locker search. Lieutenant Light says police found a small amount of marijuana in one of the lockers. They arrested a teenage boy, and charged him with possession.

News **02/16/08** **6pm** **: 30**

In West Springfield a man was struck and killed by a car on Route 20; the identity is unknown. West Springfield Police Sgt. Daniel Spaulding reported and said the victim was struck by a car near the Carver Street intersection. Efforts continue to notify the family of the pedestrian. All we know about him is that he's about fifty years old and was wearing dark clothing when the car hit him.

News **02/17/08** **7:30pm** **: 30**

Police say two armed, masked men stormed into a Springfield residents home and threatened them with guns. Two masked men barged in and toting a 45 caliber handgun. Police are investigating whether or not this was a targeted act. Police responded to the apartment home just before 5:00AM this morning at 286 Union Street. Springfield police Lt. John Bobianski says that two masked Hispanic males raced up the back stairwell of the apartment, kicking in the back door of the apartment, pointing a gun at a male and female in their 20's inside, ransacking the home before getting away with a 32 inch LCD television, cash, watches and even marijuana. The residents were not injured; we're told but definitely shaken up this morning. Police say the two thugs took off on foot even while carrying the flat screen TV.

News **02/21/08** **5:30am** **: 30**

A convicted child rapist on the state's 10 most wanted sex offender list has been arrested in New Hampshire and just days after first appearing on the registry. 25-year old Derek Boisvert was taken into custody in Hampton, New Hampshire on a statutory rape warrant issued out of Middlesex county superior court. He was listed as a Level 3 sex offender. Level 3 is considered the most likely to re-offend.

News **02/21/08** **6pm** **: 30**

Police in Longmeadow are investigating a break-in and theft at the town's Greenwood Community Center. Someone broke into the center through a window, and then stole a small safe belonging to the friends of the Longmeadow Council on Aging. Town officials weren't sure what the safe contained, and say the theft is more of an annoyance than a major loss. The police have promised to step up patrols, and organize a meeting with staff to improve building security. There were two break-ins at the same building last summer.

News **02/23/08** **9:30am** **: 30**

Springfield detectives are looking for three or four suspects in a double shooting in the city's south end. It happened around 6:30PM last night at 95 Oswego Street. Two brothers ages 16 and 26 suffered gunshot wounds, in a suspected attempted home invasion. One of the men was shot in the leg. The other was shot in the lower torso. The wounds are not believed to be life- threatening.

News **02/24/08** **7:30am** **: 30**

In Springfield a two month old infant has been rushed to the hospital after suffering severe head injuries. Now police are investigating. Police were called to Baystate Medical Center Emergency Room around 4:30am after being notified by DSS about an infant with internal bleeding of the head. The two month old has since been admitted for a complete evaluation. Springfield Police Captain John Barberi says detectives were dispatched to Baystate Medical Center to investigate. The unidentified infant was initially taken to Mercy Medical Center and then transported to Baystate Medical Center where the baby was then admitted to the pediatric intensive care unit. Right now police say it's too early to tell if foul play was involved and the parents are being interviewed. The good news is police say the infant is expected to live.

News **02/24/08** **7:30am** **: 30**

A man will serve life behind bars after accused of a 1991 rape in Chicopee, linked to the crime by DNA. Antonio Sanchez allegedly raped a 17-year-old girl after following her into her house and attacking her with a screwdriver. The 42-year-old was indicted in 2006 after giving a DNA sample because of an unrelated armed robbery conviction. Sanchez was sentenced in Hampden Superior Court on Friday.

News **02/25/08** **6am** **: 30**

Springfield police made several heroin arrests. Springfield police sergeant John Delaney says the suspects were selling heroin from the Peter Pan Bus Terminal at 1179 Main Street. Police arrested Maria Pagan and Juan Orellanes of Springfield, Ramon Nieves of Holyoke, and Robert Bedford of Springfield. Sgt Delaney says Bedford was a drug customer faces a possession of heroin charge. Police confiscated 35 bags of heroin, 130 prescription pills and more than 12-hundred dollars in cash.

News **02/25/08** **6am** **: 30**

A Springfield man is under arrest, accused of attacking a man with hammer. Police arrested 20 year old Andy Tran and charged him with assault and battery and assault with intent to murder, according to Springfield Police Sergeant John Delaney. Just after 10:30 am police responded to a breaking and entering report at 25 Eton Street in Springfield. When police arrived, they found a man bleeding from his head. He said another man attacked him with a hammer. The victim's son helped police find the suspect a short time later on Walnut Street. Sergeant Delaney says the victim positively identified Andy Tran as the man who attacked him.

News **02/26/08** **5:30am** **: 30**

A federal judge has sentenced the former general manager of an East Longmeadow production house to 52 months in prison on fraud charges. Christopher Sanderell pleads guilty to six counts of wire fraud, three counts of money laundering and tax evasion. A federal prosecutor said the thefts occurred over six years. U.S. District Judge Michael Ponsor also ordered Sanderell to pay \$1.5 million to his former employer, Veritech Corp. Defense lawyer Mark Mastroianni said that his 44 year old client suffered from mental health problems.

News **02/26/08** **6pm** **: 30**

Hours after Springfield kicked off its white ribbon campaign to end domestic violence; two men are arrested and charged with trying to harm their girlfriends. Springfield police Officer Marcia Brown says Nelson Rodriguez is accused of beating his girlfriend with a metal pipe on Putnam Circle, just after midnight. Officer Brown says Jason Gonzales, is accused of assault and battery and kidnapping because he wouldn't let his pregnant girlfriend leave their Belmont Avenue apartment. She jumped from a third story window. Acting Springfield Police commissioner William Fitchet says domestic violence strikes someone's home every fifteen seconds.

News **02/26/08** **11pm** **: 30**

Westfield police are on the look out for a hit and run driver. The accident happened at 52 Union Street just before 10PM. Westfield police Lieutenant Paul Kousch says that the victim was walking westbound on Union Street when a Ford pickup truck hit him and kept on driving. The accident was so forceful that mirrors were ripped off the suspect's truck. The pedestrian was rushed to Baystate Medical Center with a serious head injury.

News **02/28/08** **6:30am** **: 30**

In Chicopee, one person was shot around 6AM. According to Sgt. Dan Major of the Chicopee Police Department, they received a call of shots being fired from one vehicle at another near 803 Chicopee Street. But Sgt. Major said they were notified just moments ago that there was a shooting victim at Holyoke Medical Center.

News **02/28/08** **6am** **: 30**

The Massachusetts man, who stole thousands of dollars during three New Hampshire bank robberies last year, apologized as he was sentenced yesterday to 15 years in prison. Robert Clark of Turners Falls wept during his sentencing in Concord, New Hampshire and said he'll regret his decisions for the rest of his life.

News **03/03/08** **12pm** **: 30**

Two suspects are under arrest after allegedly leading police on a chase early this morning. According to West Springfield Police Captain Anthony Viecegli, 39 year old Salustiano Carrero and 38 year old Joseph Grimaldi were arrested for driving a stolen motor vehicle and several

other charges. The chase started in West Springfield, but police stopped chasing the suspects at Exit 2 on 91 North. The suspects kept going but crashed their car on East Columbus Avenue as they tried to exit the highway. They were both taken to Baystate Medical Center with non life threatening injuries.

News **03/03/08** **12pm** **: 30**

The building of a local TV station is being searched after a bomb threat was called in last night. According to Springfield Fire Department spokesperson Dennis Ledger, just before eleven, WGBY received an anonymous phone call during a telethon saying there was a bomb in the building. The building was evacuated while the Bomb and Arson Squad investigated. Nothing suspicious was found. Right now, investigators are in the process of tracking that phone call, which could take several days.

News **03/06/08** **6am** **: 30**

In Indian Orchard, Springfield Police arrested a city man after reports of someone firing a gun in the area. It happened in the morning in the alleyway at 270 Main Street; Sergeant John Delaney says Police observed a man with his hands in his pockets. The officers were able to get control of the man and disarm him without incident. James William Gray, Jr. is charged with carrying a firearm without a license, possession of ammo with a FID card and possession of a large capacity firearm. Sgt Delaney says the gun recovered was a Glock 9mm loaded with 10 rounds.

News **03/06/08** **6am** **: 30**

State police have a suspect in the hit-and-run crash on I-91. But they aren't releasing his name just yet. Police say a speeder driving a 2005 Chevy Impala tried to elude an officer yesterday afternoon. Pulling a U-turn into oncoming traffic on I-91 and then fleeing after causing a five-car crash. The man ran down a ramp onto Springfield's main street, as some drivers remained trapped in their heavily damaged; car two people were taken to the hospital and treated for non life threatening injuries. State Trooper Dan Kelly says that possible charges include reckless driving failure to stop and assault and battery with a dangerous weapon. Traffic was tangled on I-91, part of I-291 and nearby city roads well into the evening rush hour because of the crash.

News **03/07/08** **6am** **: 30**

A Springfield man has been sentenced to two years in prison after pleading guilty to marijuana charges. James Robinson was accused of having 88 pounds of pot sent by air mail to his home. Prosecutors said a delivery driver and police dog smelled the drug in two air mail packages that arrived at Bradley International Airport.

News **03/07/08** **12pm** **: 30**

Six people were arrested in Holyoke yesterday on drug charges after the police department's narcotics and vice division executed a search warrant at 149 Sergeant Street. Police also seized quantizes of, marijuana and cocaine.

News **03/07/08** **12pm** **: 30**

An overnight fight in Chicopee ended with a drug arrest. Chicopee Police Captain William Jebb says that 28 year old Edwin Calo faces cocaine trafficking and marijuana distribution charges. According to Captain Jebb, police were called to the Fifties Diner on Burnett Road around 2:30am. Captain Jebb says detectives are also investigating a possible stabbing as part of the fight. The victim has a non-life threatening wound.

News **03/07/08** **12pm** **: 30**

On March 4th, a man and woman broke into a car at the parking lot at Bellamy School in Chicopee. A teacher at the school had left her purse in the car. The purse contained some \$8,500 worth of cash and belongings. Chicopee Police Detective Jim Tisdell says that the two suspects used a credit card to charge over \$2,000 worth of merchandise at the Chicopee Wal-Mart.

News **03/07/08** **6pm** **: 30**

Westfield police have charged a man in the larceny of a purse that happened Wednesday at the Emergency Room at Nobel Hospital in Westfield. Westfield police Detective Kevin Swords says that Richard Fee of Huntington is charged with the crime. He faces charges of larceny under two hundred and fifty dollars.

News **03/09/08** **7am** **: 30**

As a suspected underground cockfighting ring was discovered in Springfield, police responded to a disturbance call at 889 Worthington Street where they arrested two teenaged males for possession of cocaine and marijuana. Police then noticed a suspicious black bag moving across a countertop inside police found a full grown male rooster. Police searched the apartment and found 3 baby chicks, metal spurs used for cockfighting, and a dead rooster in the apartment freezer Springfield police are looking into the possibility of filing animal cruelty and gaming charges against those teens.

News **03/11/08** **5:30am** **: 30**

A 23-year-old Springfield man pleads guilty to second-degree murder of a liquor store owner. Charlie Montijo and four other men were charged with killing Kanchan Patel at the Summit Package Store in 2005. He was sentenced to life in prison with parole eligibility in 15 years. One other defendant has pleaded guilty to manslaughter. The three others await trial.

News **03/13/08** **6:30am** **: 30**

A man was arrested in Springfield for assaulting a 10 year old boy with a golf club. Springfield police Capt. Peter Dillon says Rafiq Tahir, the clerk at Quick Stop Convenience Store on 885 Carew St, allegedly hit the child after a dispute over unrolled pennies. He is charged with assault and battery with a dangerous weapon. Capt. Dillon said the boy tried to buy brownies with the unrolled pennies. Tahir refused to accept them and then he allegedly leaped over the counter and hit the boy with the club. The boy was not seriously injured in the attack.

News **03/13/08** **12pm** **: 30**

A Northampton Police Officer has been indicted by a Hampshire County grand jury on charges he harassed a fellow officer. Thirty-five year old Eric Wartel of South Hadley is accused of criminally harassing and committing identity fraud against Deirdre Yasutomo. Northampton police Chief Russell Sienkiewicz says he takes any hint of police misconduct seriously.

News **03/13/08** **6pm** **: 30**

Police arrested a Springfield man and charged him with assaulting a 14 year old boy. Springfield police Captain Robert Cheetham says that the boy was assaulted at the corner of Kenwood and Sumner Avenue. The suspect, 20 year old Decatur Carter, of 162 Commonwealth Avenue, was seen entering the Walgreens at the "X". Police pepper sprayed Carter during the arrest. They say he pushed a police officer. Carter is being charged with assault and battery and disorderly conduct.

News **03/13/08** **6pm** **: 30**

South Hadley police were serving a stolen goods warrant last night, when they discovered a major indoor pot growing operation. According to South Hadley Lt. William Sowa, just after 5PM last night police approached the rear building of 5 Bach Lane that's where police found 500 plus marijuana plants. From small seedlings to two foot tall trees lights, packaging materials and an irrigation system for nurseries were also seized. 49 year old Stephen Opalehnick is now under arrest for cultivation of marijuana, and possession with intent to distribute.

News **03/14/08** **12pm** **: 30**

Carol Aranjo is the former Chief Executive of the D. Edward Wells Credit Union. She was convicted yesterday of multiple counts of embezzlement, filing false tax returns, bank fraud, filing false entries with a federal financial institution and obstruction of a federal examiner. Her husband, Alphonso Smith, was convicted of aiding and abetting and was acquitted of some charges. Prosecutors say the couple stole \$1.5 million from the credit union between 1997 and 2003 through bogus transfers and other methods, then used the money for a lavish lifestyle.

News **03/14/08** **12pm** **: 30**

Police in Springfield are looking for a student accused of punching a substitute teacher in the face during a high school math class. Police said the teenager attacked the teacher when he was asked to show his student I-D badge. Police have identified 18 year old Steven Jerel Malloy as the suspect in Tuesday's incident at the High School of Science and Technology. Malloy allegedly punched the 52 year old disabled man after being asked to show his student identification badge. The teacher was taken to a local hospital, where he was treated and released. Public school students in Springfield are supposed to wear id badges, but officials say many do not.

News **03/14/08** **12pm** **: 30**

A North Adams man who provided his suicidal friend with a loaded gun this morning was sentenced to four to five years in prison. Christopher Burda was convicted of involuntary manslaughter in the November 2005 death of 51 year old Nancy Choquette. Burda apologized at his sentencing today in Berkshire Superior Court. Judge John Agostino said he agreed that Burda isn't a bad person, but that his actions were reckless. Burda told police he was "calling her bluff" when he handed the loaded gun to Choquette who was despondent and intoxicated.

News **03/15/08** **9:30am** **: 30**

In Holyoke, a teenage boy remains in the hospital after being stabbed. Holyoke police Sgt. Steven Loftus says the boy was jumped while walking home from school Friday afternoon near 310 Walnut Street. He is expected to survive his wounds. Police are looking for multiple suspects.

News **03/15/08** **6pm** **: 30**

Holyoke police have arrested 14 men and women this weekend in an attempt rid the streets of prostitutes and their customers. Police Chief Anthony Scott released the mug shots of the 13 who've been charged with a range of offenses including soliciting sex for a fee to possession of drugs. Scott calls this operation, the "John sting/street walker seven". The chief says, Holyoke police worked with a state police unit during the crackdown. Scott says the sting operation results from concern over the number of prostitutes in Holyoke's central business district". The chief voiced his ongoing concern about low bail. He noted that one of the prostitutes was arrested twice within four hours. Scott served notice that he'll continue these operations in the future.

News **03/15/08** **11pm** **: 30**

A Blandford man will be in court on Monday after he held State Police at bay for several hours, when State Police attempted to serve warrants on him. The State Police Stop Team had to be called in after the suspect, 54 year old Patrick Jay's wife told police that he was armed. According to Lt. Eric Anderson of the State' Police's Office of Media Relations, Jay was wanted on warrants for two counts of rape of a child by force and a charge of assault

with attempt to rape a child. He said it took about five hours before they were able to take Jay into custody. He is scheduled to be arraigned in Westfield District Court on Monday.

News **03/16/08** **7am** **: 30**

A Westfield man has been found guilty of vehicular manslaughter in connection with an accident killing a prominent Western Massachusetts lawyer. Prosecutors say 26 year old Jacob Liptak was drunk behind the wheel of a pickup truck that struck a car driven by Geri Laventis in Northampton. Liptak faces a maximum of five years in prison. Sentencing is scheduled for Tuesday in Hampshire Superior Court.

News **03/17/08** **5am** **: 30**

In Springfield two people have been arrested after gunshots were fired. Springfield Police and East Longmeadow Police are trying to piece together where exactly the incident started. Early reports had it happening on North Main Street in East Longmeadow. Sergeant Richard Bates says that no physical evidence was found there. Springfield detectives are investigating the possibility that the shots were fired inside two moving cars. The two suspects were taken into custody on Manchester Street in Springfield. One man was taken into an ambulance; it is unclear if he was shot.

News **03/17/08** **5pm** **: 30**

In the Berkshires, A 35 year old man has been ordered held without bail after being charged with the murder of his mother. Rodney Ball of New Marlborough was arraigned today in Southern Berkshire District Court in the death of 55 year old Donna Agar. The Berkshire District Attorney said State Police found Agar's body in her New Marlborough home Sunday after being asked to check on her welfare. An autopsy was scheduled to determine the cause of her death.

News **03/17/08** **6pm** **: 30**

Two Springfield men face several charges for allegedly shooting at a Springfield Police officer. Springfield Police Sergeant John Delaney says that Frank D'Agostino of 23 Wendell Place and Louis Saccamando of 58 Cooley Street face numerous firearms and assault charges. A Springfield Police Officer returning from an extra-duty detail spotted a car suspected in an assault. The officer, who was in his own car with two family members, pulled into a gas station parking lot at White and Belmont Avenues. That's when the car in question took off, with shots fired at the officer's car. D'Agostino and Saccamando were arrested after a short chase. Police seized two loaded guns that had been recently fired. No one was injured.

News **03/20/08** **5am** **: 30**

Gunshots were fired at an off duty Springfield Police officer and then a house catches fire. Springfield Police Sgt John Delaney says someone set fire to 49 Audubon Street in

Springfield. Now a Springfield teenager may be a suspect. Sgt. Delaney says 17 year old Frankie Rovelli told police these men shot at him Sunday while he was in a car driven by his uncle, a Springfield Police officer. The document identifies this man, Giuseppe Manzi, as his dealer. Rovelli said their relationship soured, ultimately resulting in Manzi's friends beating Rovelli up, and then hours later allegedly shooting at him while he was in the car with his uncle, Officer Alex Lalos. Less than forty-eight hours later, Manzi's house went up in smoke. A neighbor and family friend called Manzi "a nice man." Rovelli's neighbors expressed concern after hearing that an alleged drug dealer lives next door. Sgt Delaney says there appear to be some holes in Rovelli's story, but Manzi is a known criminal.

News **03/20/08** **12pm** **: 30**

A 25 year old Southwick man has been sentenced to up to seven years in prison after pleading guilty to manslaughter in a fatal wrong-way car accident. Jason Cook caused the October 2006 crash in Westfield that killed 49 year old Robert Pisani, who worked as a substance abuse counselor in the Longmeadow Schools. Pisani left a 10 year old daughter and a 3 month old son. Pisani's widow doesn't believe the 3 1/2 to seven year prison sentence for Cook is enough. She says Cook should remain behind bars for 18 years, the time her son Joseph has been sentenced to grow up without a father.

News **03/21/08** **5am** **: 30**

In Springfield 4 people were stabbed in a bar downtown. Police were called to The Zone Night Club at 80 Worthington Street for a disturbance around midnight. Springfield Police Capt. John Barberry says that a man was thrown out by the staff and when he was denied re-entry, he pulled out a knife and stabbed 3 staff members and a female patron. All four of those people were taken to the hospital, two of them are listed in serious condition. Police are still searching for that man.

News **03/22/08** **9:30am** **: 30**

The head of the State Department of Social Services says his agency made errors while dealing with a 7 year old boy who's mother's boyfriend is accused of abusing the child. The boyfriend, 22 year old David Privette, faces multiple charges in connection with the case, including allegedly burning the boy's genitals with cigarettes. The boy's mother was charged with negligence Thursday.

News **03/22/08** **9:30am** **: 30**

A Worcester area high school history teacher has resigned after pleading guilty to sending nude pictures of himself over the internet to someone who claimed to be a 14 year-old girl. Scott Simoncini of Worcester agreed to give up his teaching job in West Boylston under a plea deal with prosecutors. He will serve one year in jail and up to two years probation.

News **03/24/08** **5:30am** **: 30**

A convicted rapist in Greenfield loses his bid for money to compensate for an injury behind bars. A jury ruled that a Franklin County house of correction guard was negligent in the case in which prisoner Wilfredo Vasquez was burned while cleaning a coffee pot. But the jury also concluded Vasquez, who was convicted of sexual assault on a child, contributed to his injuries and shouldn't get any money.

News **03/24/08** **5:30am** **: 30**

There was an arraignment for a man accused of Springfield's 3rd murder this year. Greenfield police released a photo of the victim. 52-year-old Willie Donaldson of Greenfield was fatally stabbed early Saturday morning at a home on Seymour Street. Donaldson was killed during a fight over a loaf of bread between 59 year old Lee Wilkins and his housemate 62 year old Tom Webb. Wilkins has been charged with Donaldson's murder. Webb has been charged with assault and battery.

News **03/25/08** **12pm** **: 30**

A judge from Worcester was assigned to a case involving two Holyoke Police Officers and denied a motion to dismiss charges of assault and battery with a dangerous weapon against them. Officers Joseph Wilson and Sean Shattuck appeared in Palmer District Court. The off-duty officers are accused of beating Christopher Martinez outside Pal Joey's in Holyoke on December 18th of last year. A conviction for the felony charge carries a maximum sentence of ten years in state prison. Officers Shattuck and Wilson are on paid leave and face trial May 27th.

News **03/25/08** **12pm** **: 30**

Police in Wilbraham arrested a former Springfield Police Officer, who they say shoplifted two items at the Home Depot. Retired Springfield Police Officer Robert Jacobson was allegedly caught shoplifting over the weekend. Wilbraham Police Captain Roger Tucker says Jacobson took two items off the Home Depot shelves, and tried to return them for cash. Captain Tucker says security was watching and the Home Depot security cameras were rolling. Jacobson is the former head of the Patrolman's Union.

News **03/26/08** **12pm** **: 30**

Six people were arrested during a drug bust in Springfield. Narcotics officer confiscated a loaded pistol during the raid of 42 Talcot Street just after 7PM. Police charged the second floor resident with possession of crack with intent to distribute and possession of a high capacity semi-automatic pistol. Another man was charged with assault and battery on a police officer. Captain Peter Dillon says the apartment was equipped with an extensive video surveillance system.

News **03/27/08** **12pm** **: 30**

A former police officer from Franklin County is accused of groping a 12 year old girl. Northwestern Assistant District Attorney Jane Mulqueen said the girl came forward, claiming 63-year old Ronald Pluta groped her. Prosecutors say the victim also told them Pluta offered to pay her to perform a sex act. The Turners Falls man pleaded not guilty and is free on bail. Pluta served time nearly 20 years ago for a similar offense.

News **03/27/08** **12pm** **: 30**

A man from Chicopee was arrested after eluding police in a car chase and now faces numerous charges. State Trooper Gary Wood told said State Police arrested 43 year old Alfredo Gonzalez at his home at 30 Plante Circle in Chicopee. He also goes by the alias Felix Maldonado. Gonzalez was almost captured, but eluded police during a car chase from Chicopee into West Springfield. He was wanted on charges of armed assault with a firearm in a dwelling, assault with a dangerous weapon and intimidation of a witness relating to a past incident. He now faces charges of operating a vehicle to endanger, driving with a revoked license and failure to stop for a police officer.

News **03/27/08** **12pm** **: 30**

A man is recovering this morning after being stabbed eight times in Springfield's Mason Square. Springfield Police Officer Marcia brown says the crime happened at the end of Hayden Avenue just before 2pm. The man has a punctured lung, but he's expected to survive his wounds. Officer Brown says the victim's been uncooperative with police. The attack happened just behind the Rebecca Johnson Middle School. One student there said the principal made sure to direct children away from the scene after school.

News **03/27/08** **12pm** **: 30**

Two men are under arrest after firing shots around Chestnut Street in Holyoke. 32 year old Milton Pacheco and 47 year old Abraham Ojeda of 93 Elm Street in Holyoke were arrested after police found a 9 mm machine gun fully loaded in their car with ample amounts of ammo on hand. Holyoke Police Chief Anthony Scott said an unknown caller first alerted police of the shooting around 10 last night. Police searched the area but found nothing. The unknown caller called back giving the dispatcher the home address of the suspects. Chief Scott says Pacheco is an illegal immigrant. Both are being held on \$5,000 bail.

News **03/27/08** **11pm** **: 30**

In Springfield, police arrested 50 year old West Springfield resident, Jose Martinez. He was picked up in front of 367 Hancock Street in Springfield allegedly making a drug delivery Wednesday. After the arrest, the officers raided his apartment in West Springfield. Police seized more than two and half pounds of cocaine during the street arrest and raid. Specifically, 1200 grams of pure cocaine, 173 grams of heroin, \$16,000 dollars cash and ledgers, paraphernalia and drug packaging materials used in the and sale of drugs.

News **03/28/08** **12pm** **: 30**

A Holyoke man is recovering this afternoon after he was shot in the leg. Holyoke Police Sgt. Isaiah Cruz says that the 18 year old victim walked into Holyoke Medical Center around 10pm with a gun shot wound to the thigh. The victim told police he was shot when he was jumped by 6 masked men on Appleton Street, but Sgt. Cruz said police were unable to find any shell casings or blood at the scene.

News **03/28/08** **11pm** **: 30**

A Springfield man has been sentenced to consecutive sentences of life in prison for robbing and fatally shooting two Springfield men in 2006. A Hampden County Superior Court judge sentenced Thomas Caldwell Jr. after a jury found him guilty of two counts of first-degree murder. Caldwell robbed and killed Kevin Thompson and Nathan Lewis in an apartment they were renovating with two co-workers.

News **03/29/08** **9am** **: 30**

Chicopee Savings Bank on Burnett Road was robbed. Wilbraham Police have arrested 41 year old Jeffery White. He was allegedly seen here in surveillance pictures. Chicopee Detective Frank Kagan says police spotted the suspect's car outside a Boston Road Motel at 1:30AM. White is homeless with roots in Ludlow. He has been charged with armed robbery. Police say he passed a threatening note to the bank teller, grabbed some cash, and took off.

News **03/29/08** **9am** **: 30**

A Springfield teen is recovering this morning after he was stabbed with a household tool in front of the Eastfield Mall. Lt. John Slepchuck says the victim said three males tried to rob him and when he tried to get away one of the men stabbed him in the stomach with a screw driver. After calling for help, the victim was taken to Baystate Medical Center. So far no arrests have been made.

News **03/29/08** **11pm** **: 30**

A robbery victim in Springfield tonight says he received a hand laceration when three men held him up on the street. Captain Peter Dillon says the victim said that a semi automatic was used. The incident happened at 1309 St. James Avenue.

News **03/31/08** **5am** **: 30**

The driver of the vehicle that allegedly set off a fatal tanker truck explosion will be arraigned in Hampden County District Court. According to a news release from State Police, 35-year-old Victor Aponte of Holyoke is being charged with negligent motor vehicle homicide, and reckless operation. 43-year-old Aaron Staelens from New Hampshire died after being burned when his cab was engulfed in flames. That accident on I91 near the Chicopee curve shut down traffic in the area for several hours.

The following is WWLP programming addressing Education during the 1st quarter of 2008. These issues were addressed through our locally produced news programming.

News 01/02/08 5pm : 30

Students at Chicopee Comprehensive High School started the New Year with a brand new state of the art building. Construction started back in May 2005 and it cost \$93,000,000 to build. Some students say it will take some time getting used to the new school. Chicopee Comp is one of the last schools built with 90% of the funding provided by the state.

News 01/07/08 6:30pm : 30

In an effort to make education a top issue for 2008, Governor Patrick plans to file legislation this week creating a cabinet-level education secretary. Three people familiar with the plan tell the AP that the bill also would grant Patrick greater control of education boards by expanding the number of seats on the panels. That would allow Patrick to add more supporters to advance his agenda.

News 01/14/08 12pm : 30

Officials in Salem say 80 school department employees could lose their jobs this month as the city tries to close a \$4.7 million dollar budget deficit. School Superintendent William Cameron says the cuts will include the equivalent of 33 full-time teaching positions. He says other workers could see their hours reduced. Cameron also warns of larger class sizes and possible reductions in programs such as art, music and gym. Officials have blamed the shortfall on mismanagement by the School Department's former Business Director, Bruce Guy.

News 01/14/08 5pm : 30

Ware school officials are reviewing dress code revisions suggested by Ware High students and faculty. Among other changes, it would let students wear hats and similar head coverings at school, as long as they don't cover the student's ears or conceal their identity. It also suggests clarifications on skirt lengths and would ban clothing with tears or (quote) "revealing rips."

News 01/14/08 5pm : 30

A new Holyoke Catholic High School is rising in Chicopee, and is on track to open this coming fall. The school is being built down the road from Elms College, on the grounds of the Assumption School on Springfield Street. The school will have a 400 student capacity. Holyoke Catholic's currently housed at a former seminary building in the town of Granby.

Enrollment at the Granby campus stands at about 300, but officials hope the new more central location will help their efforts to recruit more students.

News **01/15/08** **5am** **: 30**

An education from one of the country's most prestigious schools will soon be more affordable for middle class families. Yale University is taking an extra \$24,000,000 from the school's endowment to pay for an increase in financial aid at the school that would save parents and students thousands of dollars per year. Tuition, room and board at the New Haven, Connecticut University run about \$45,000 a year.

News **01/15/08** **5:30pm** **: 30**

Governor Patrick wants to increase education spending by \$368,000,000 in the fiscal year beginning July 1st. The extra cash would fund programs to expand full-day kindergarten and pay for extended-day classes. Patrick's proposed increase includes \$223,000,000 more in regular "Chapter 70" aid to communities, a 6% hike over this year. Patrick says it's critical to make sure students can excel, even though the state is facing tough fiscal challenges.

News **01/25/08** **5:30am** **:30**

Colleges and Universities have billions of dollars in their endowments making some parents ask why they don't share the wealth. 76 institutions have endowments of a billion dollars or more. Some, including Harvard, recently announced they're eliminating student loans by taking money from the endowments. Some parents and lawmakers say the schools could do much more. Iowa Senator Chuck Grassley suggests some should be required to spend 5% of their endowments a year pointing out they're supposed to offer "public benefit" for their tax-exempt status.

News **01/27/08** **7am** **:30**

Help is on the way for would-be college students tackling the free application for federal student aid forms. "College Goal Sunday" events will be held around the state so prospective students can make sure their so-called **FAFSA** forms are properly filled out. Last year, about 1,600 families attended College Goal Sunday events around Massachusetts. More are expected this year at 22 locations around the state.

News **01/31/08** **6:30am** **:30**

Two schools in Holyoke may close by next year. That's according to the Superintendent of Schools in the city. Eduardo Carballo says the move would save enough money to avoid teacher layoffs, a step he's trying to avoid despite increased costs and reduced state aid. Closing schools would require shifting students to several other buildings. Holyoke's School Committee will decide next month on Carballo's proposal.

News **02/01/08** **5:30am** **:30**

The Springfield Finance Control Board is expected to launch a search for a new superintendent. Superintendent Joseph Burke's contract is up in June. The Springfield School Committee voted in favor of re-signing Burke for 3 years citing numerous statistical improvements under his tenure, but the committee's vote may not be enough. The Finance Control Board meets today and is expected to launch a new search; a search that members of the school committee contend is illegal. It clearly states that the hiring of all city employees or city officials including the school committee is transferred to the control board.

News **02/02/08** **11am** **:30**

It's the smart kids who start planning now for their futures. And some of the sharpest young minds in the Pioneer Valley were busy sharpening their mind even more today. Some of the best and the brightest middle school students in the Springfield area gathered at American International College for the annual math-counts competition. These well grounded students from Western Massachusetts invested part of their Saturday in return for the coaching and competition they hope will enrich their already formidable abilities in mathematics.

News **02/04/08** **5pm** **:30**

Some local middle school students turned the Superbowl into an educational experience. At Duggan Middle School in Springfield, teachers organized a Superbowl Party for students to learn about math. They calculated the overall quarterback ratings for Tom Brady and Eli Manning during the big game. Teachers said the Superbowl Party was a success. Bertera Metro Jeep in Springfield, provided food and beverages for the event.

News **02/04/08** **6pm** **:30**

In Agawam, students are learning about science with a chinchilla and a three-toed turtle. Agawam high school students got an up-close glimpse at biotechnology today. A Cape Cod zookeeper answered questions about the animals and even gave students a chance to pet them. This is part of a life science career development grant awarded to the school.

News **02/06/08** **6am** **:30**

The Greenfield school department is facing half a million dollars in midyear cuts, which will probably result in a reduction of staff. Superintendent Marcia Evans says the School Department will be \$900,000 over budget if nothing is done. But school and city officials have allocated about \$400,000 from other accounts to help shrink the gap.

News **02/11/08** **12pm** **:30**

The state commission on public secondary schools has removed Ware High School from probation and restored it to full accreditation. The school was placed on probation after officials noted shortcomings in curriculum, learning resources and community learning resources. The school completed a turnaround in 18 months, less time than anticipated.

News **02/16/08** **6pm** **:30**

Springfield area students may soon be spending an additional hour and a half each day in school. The AP reports that Governor Deval Patrick has thrown his support behind longer school days. Patrick tells the AP America must lengthen the school day to compete in the global economy. But a longer school day means higher costs. It's been estimated that the state would have to spend \$300,000,000 just to extend the school day in 25% of Massachusetts schools. There's no word on where the money will come from.

News **02/18/08** **6pm** **:30**

T-Rex and the gang are at the Springfield Science Museum. The exhibit runs through May 11th. Every day this week, there will be programs and performances aimed at entertaining and educating the little ones. Some parents we talked to say it's a great way to keep the kids busy during school vacation.

News **02/26/08** **5pm** **:30**

The State Board of Education approves three new Charter Schools, including one in the Springfield area. That school is the Hampden Charter School of Science. The school will have some 350 students in grades 4 through 12 and will open in 2009.

News **02/26/08** **5pm** **:30**

Seven local school districts participated in an incident drill today aimed at keeping students safe in the event of an emergency. These school districts are part of the region on call project meeting for the first time at Smith and Wesson in Springfield. The program takes a regional approach to school safety. School and municipal administrators learned how to improve emergency management in schools through table-top exercises by the Massachusetts emergency management agency.

News **02/29/08** **6pm** **:30**

A new survey shows some students are having issues transitioning from high school to college. In a first statewide "school to college" report 37% of students coming from a public high school, who go on to public colleges, say they may not be prepared with the demands of college level work often being greater than high school material. Some public school students surveyed said they needed to attend a community college first. Yet, some students from public high schools told 22News that time management and not overwhelming their work load, helped make their transition to college more manageable. The report found that the transition to a four year college may be harder for students from low income families or those who don't speak English as a first language.

News **03/01/08** **6pm** **:30**

Pathfinder Vocational Technical High School in Palmer continues to impress with its robotics program. The Eastern Hampden County School today hosted its first robotics competition. The electronics program has become Pathfinder's pride and joy. Competition this sophisticated usually happens in the big cities, rarely if ever in a corner of Hampden County. But Robotics Technology teacher Eric Duda has really put Pathfinder on the map. With the popularity of his course and the excellence of the robotics, Duda's says the robotics provides them with a new means of expressing their talents. Another student says that the competition feeds into his own sense of creativity. After this latest challenge, Pathfinder Regional and its robotics technology teacher can probably count on getting a few calls from prospective students.

News

03/03/08

5pm

:30

Reading out loud to children has been praised as being among the most forward-thinking of classroom programs here in Western Massachusetts. One reader spent part of the morning at West Springfield's Fausey Elementary School reading a Doctor Seuss story to the students. All this week in schools all across Western Massachusetts readers are volunteering their time to help children enrich their young lives as part of the read across America program.

News

03/06/08

6pm

:30

The report by the Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless says there are 100 teens between the ages of 16 to 18 in Springfield living without permanent homes. The group also blames the state for not doing enough to provide them with shelter and better educational opportunities. A school department homeless advocate thinks the numbers may be overstated. Nealon Jaynes-Lewis reaches out to homeless teens on a daily basis. The School Department helps them find shelter, get enrolled in school, and provides them with school supplies and transportation. In many cases, the unaccompanied youth as they're known, won't admit that they're on their own out of embarrassment or fear of ending up in foster care, but Jaynes-Lewis says there are signs for school staff look out for. Those conditions can impact a student's educational experience. The study draws a link between homelessness and poor performance on MCAS exams.

News

03/06/08

6pm

:30

Students attending any of the four University of Massachusetts undergraduate campuses next year will pay between \$266 and \$311 more for their education, under a plan approved by school trustees. When room and board is included, the in-state cost of attending UMass Amherst will be \$18,346. The proposal must be now be approved by the full board of trustees.

News

03/07/08

5:30am

:30

The AP is reporting that Cathleen Moriarty, the Principal of Brunton Elementary School, is on paid administrative leave while the State Social Services investigate allegations against her.

The School Superintendent and Mayor wouldn't detail the allegations against Moriarty, who took over as principal last fall at the school.

News **03/10/08** **11pm** **:30**

The 13th Annual West Springfield Spelling Bee is sponsored by the city's Partnership for Education. Teams of kids and adults from various organizations competed on stage at the Majestic Theater. After four rounds, the Tatham school faculty team of Susan Mulvaney, Maura Lunney and 5th grader Randy Simoneau emerged victorious.

News **03/11/08** **11pm** **:30**

In Springfield, Sade Murray, an 11 year old student at the Dream Studio will soon be on the road performing professionally. For the past three or four years she practiced dance. Executive Director Benjamin Smith recently noticed that Disney was holding open tryouts for the Broadway play "Lion King". Well Sade practiced the role and headed to the Big Apple to try out. After numerous call backs, she got the part. Little Sade debuts April 15th in Atlanta, from there they'll tour the country for six months. As for school, the company offers a tutor and a parent to travel with their child.

News **03/12/08** **5:30pm** **:30**

A new study says many college students who already face the prospect of paying back thousands of dollars in school loans also are falling deep into credit card debt. The New Hampshire Higher Education Assistance Foundation checked with more than 30,000 students and former students who borrowed student loans from the organization and found many are relying heavily on credit cards. Graduates repaying college loans are carrying average credit card debt of nearly \$4,500.

News **03/12/08** **6pm** **:30**

A Pittsfield Middle School project almost 3 years in the making is now complete. Students at the Herberg Middle School collected 1,000,000 pop tabs from aluminum cans, which will be donated to the Ronald McDonald House charities. But the original motivation for the project was simply to see what 1,000,000 of anything looked like.

News **03/14/08** **6pm** **:30**

Libraries hope the state will provide more money for their budgets as demand for faster technology increases. At a breakfast at Chicopee Comprehensive High School, library officials from around the state and local lawmakers met to talk about some of the new challenges facing libraries after a 35% cut in funding. Increased demand for faster access to electronic information, costs for communications connections, and a push to expand small library networks is costing more. Librarians say more funding is necessary because libraries improve the lives of so many different people.

News **03/14/08** **6pm** **:30**

Frank Iltamas is the superintendent of Northampton's Smith Vocational School and he says they will be laying off some teachers - eliminating a couple of teacher aids, cutting textbook accounts. The board hasn't seen all of it yet but there is some bad news. Many school districts are experiencing the same thing. Monson's budget shortfall has led to talk of much greater class sizes. Holyoke's talking about closing some schools. In Northampton, there's talk that perhaps one of the elementary schools, Bridge Street or one of the other three, would have to close. It's a variety of factors and no different with other communities grappling with the same things: high utility costs, rapid inflation in their health insurance, coupled with state aid that's not growing at the same rate as costs. One part of that, the school funding formula developed 15 years ago hasn't been updated. And it was a formula that determined how much it would cost to educate a student and that was determined back in '93 and its 2008 and that has not changed. Another issue is declining enrollments. Some districts like Greenfield are facing problems in the middle of this year. But for others, it's next year's budget that's presenting serious problems.

News**03/14/08****11pm****:30**

Westfield's North Middle School is hosting a science program that will last all night. More than 150 6, 7 and 8th graders will sleep over, but not before taking a nighttime walk with a naturalist. Later they will learn about electrical circuits, the diffusion of light and even making ice cream using liquid nitrogen. Physicians from a variety of fields will be stopping by tonight. The Baystate Medical Center doctors will answer any questions the students have about their respective fields of work.

News**03/17/08****5:30pm****:30**

Senator Ted Kennedy held a hearing at Northeastern University on how the credit crunch is hurting a student's ability to get financial aid. Northeastern just announced they'll only offer students federal loans to make tuition payments easier. Some area colleges are doing what they can to help out. Locally, UMass provides students with government loans before looking to private lenders. Tight credit is hurting student's chances for affording college by borrowing directly from the government. It protects students from the turmoil plaguing the current economy. The federal loans are offered by the US Department of Education.

News**03/18/08****6pm****:30**

A Springfield mother claims her son's school isn't doing enough to protect students from bullies. Ramona Gomez' son is an 8th grader at Kiley Middle School on Cooley Street. She says that on Friday, some students beat him up after getting off the bus from school. You can see the bruises on his face. Gomez says the bullying often starts in school and then escalates when students leave the building. She wants school officials to be more aggressive when it comes to detecting and addressing abuse. Principal Kenneth Luce says safety is their top priority and when staff learns about any problems brewing, they intervene immediately. Luce says they're constantly monitoring students.

News **03/20/08** **6pm** **:30**

It's been almost three weeks since the Principal of Brunton Elementary School was placed on paid administrative leave, but the district is still staying tight-lipped about what led up to the move and progress at Brunton Elementary School. But parents want answers about late last month when Brunton Principal Cathleen Moriarty was placed on paid administrative leave. Both the District and the Department of Social Services are investigating. Parents say they need more information than that. Parents peppered the Superintendent with questions about Moriarty. Burke apologized, saying he couldn't talk about the ongoing investigation. Brunton's Assistant Principal is serving as the acting principal for now. Burke says once the DSS investigation is complete, he may be able to reveal more information. Burke says that could be as early as next week.

News **03/20/08** **6pm** **:30**

State officials say more students dropped out of public high schools in Massachusetts in the 2006-2007 school years than the year before. The department of education says nearly 11,500 students, or 3.8% of those in grades 9 through 12, dropped out before graduating. Nearly 2,000 were seniors who already had passed the MCAS exam.

News **03/20/08** **6pm** **:30**

The American Civil Liberties Union's backing Amherst Middle School students in a dispute with administrators. An ACLU attorney wrote the school insisting they distribute the March edition of the school newspaper. The paper contains a survey that says three of every four students think administrators ignore their concerns. School officials say the poll's methodology was flawed and biased.

News **03/24/08** **12pm** **:30**

Teachers in the Central Berkshire Regional School district are taking steps to protest a lack of progress in contract negotiations. The 178 teachers in the district will refrain from all activities outside of the regular school day, such as chaperoning or attending PTO meetings. The teachers have been working under the terms of a collective bargaining agreement that expired last August and negotiations with the school district have been ongoing since last January.

News **03/24/08** **12pm** **:30**

Supporters of legislation that takes aim at childhood obesity plan to rally at the statehouse. The so-called school nutrition calls on schools to eliminate sodas and sugary snacks and make fresher fruits and vegetables available in school cafeterias.

News **03/27/08** **11pm** **:30**

Sophomores cram for the MCAS exam for 10 years. And the consequences of failing are simple enough. If you fail, you don't graduate. Sophomores test for three hours a day on each subject on English, Math, US History and a new addition this year: Science. With each exam

comes added pressure. If you don't pass, you can take the test again in November or March, your junior and if necessary, senior year. Students need at least 220 out of 280 to pass. But if your score doesn't cut it, tutoring catering to the students' needs is offered throughout the year. Easthampton Principal Jeffrey Sealander said for the school administration the pressure of MCAS is a double edge sword. The scores determine how much federal grants each school receives to further learning opportunities for their students.

News

03/27/08

5:30pm

:30

The anticipation of getting into a good college can sometimes be the most stressful part of the admissions process for high school students. Before they know whether they've been accepted high school students applying to college have something else to worry about: getting wait-listed. Many colleges and universities are wait-listing more and more students. 17-year old Kelly Ryan is on the wait list at Northeastern University in Boston, which has increased their wait-list by 17%, according to a report by the Boston globe. Although the trend is creating more stress for students, it's putting many colleges at ease. Record numbers of applications, an unstable economy, and a change in financial aid packages have led schools to play a guessing game trying to anticipate which students will choose them. But it has certainly made the application process much harder for high school students who have a deadline for deciding. Cathedral High School Counselor Kevin McCarthy says students should send a deposit to reserve a spot at a second or third choice school and then send any new accomplishments to the school where you've been wait-listed; it'll help set you apart from the other students on the same wait-list.

News

03/28/08

5:30pm

:30

Many colleges are now giving students free tuition. The "Open Education Resources" movement is gaining steam and helping people without means to obtain college material for free. Participants find college lecture notes, exams, and even college classes. MIT was the first to start back in 2001, and now it offers resources from more than 1,800 courses the school offers.

The following is WWLP programming addressing Environment during the 1st quarter of 2008. These issues were addressed through our locally produced news programming.

News 01/16/08 12pm : 30

Wildlife officials and volunteers will be fanning out along Massachusetts waterways in search of bald eagles. The annual count of the once-endangered birds is being conducted today as part of the nationwide midwinter bald eagle survey. Among the sites being surveyed is the Quabbin Reservoir in Belchertown. A year ago, observers spotted at least 47 bald eagles in Massachusetts; that was down from a record 75 three years ago.

News 01/17/08 5:30pm : 30

The Northeast Resort Development Group is lobbying on Beacon Hill for Governor Patrick's casino bill, all while continuing to buy up land around a possible casino site in Palmer. The Northeast Group has bought 80 acres of land off exit 8 on the Mass Pike in Palmer, bringing their total ownership up to 230 acres. Mohegan Sun has an exclusive agreement with Northeast Realty to develop a casino or entertainment project on the palmer site.

News 01/24/08 5am : 30

Teachers and parents of one Springfield Elementary School arrived on campus yesterday to find a number of emergency vehicles blocking their parking lot the Daniel Brunton Elementary School have had a number of oil deliveries, but due to the cold weather, the last scheduled delivery didn't go as planned. Due to the freezing temperatures, the pipe used to channel oil into the school's tank froze, blocking access to the tank, causing 20 gallons of oil to spill over into the parking lot. The school uses nearly 275 gallons of oil everyday. Principal Moriarty said they still have nearly 12 hundred gallons left which should last them until they get another delivery in a few days.

News 01/24/08 6am : 30

The United States drops 11 spots on an Environmental Index now ranking 39th in the world. The 2008 Environmental Performance Index measures a number of factors, including greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution. The chairman of the White House Council on Environmental Quality says the Bush Administration is working to cut emissions of chemicals from power plants and from the burning of diesel fuels.

News 01/29/08 6:30am : 30

State environmental officials are providing \$4,000,000 dollars for projects aimed at restoring and enhancing the Housatonic River. Work will range from purchasing conservation land to

restoring river flows. The effort will help repair damage done by the past release of chemicals from General Electric's Pittsfield facility. The river flows through the Berkshire Hills and into Connecticut.

News **01/29/08** **6:30am** **: 30**

The Route 116 Bridge between Chicopee and Holyoke, better known as the Willimansett Bridge is one of ten bridges in the state deemed most in need of immediate repairs. Many drivers wonder whether the bridge is safe to drive over. The state is now saying repairs on the Willimansett Bridge can't wait. The decaying structure they say is unsound. It's a century old. Many drivers say they don't like driving over it because of safety concerns. The Turner Falls Bridge in Gill is also on the state's top 10 list for most needed repairs. The state treasurer Tim Cahill says the funding for the bridge projects would come from federal tax exempt bonds.

News **02/01/08** **5am** **: 30**

Strong fumes forced several people out of their homes in Greenfield, complaining of headaches. Fire officials say it was the results of a gas leak build up. It all started near the corner of Franklin and Park Street; that's when Greenfield Fire dept. began getting calls about a strong gas odor, and flu-like symptoms in the neighborhood. In the end nine residents from a senior housing complex called "The Church Street Home" had to be evacuated, and the occupants of at least two other homes were treated for symptoms on the scene. Berkshire Gas worked through the night to fix the broken pipe under Franklin Street.

News **02/04/08** **6pm** **: 30**

Word of a proposed sewer project in the town of Agawam has some residents up in arms. It's a \$31,000,000 project and some 900 households in the southwest section of town may just have to foot the bill. If passed, each would have to pay about \$18,000 over 20 years. That's according to Sewer Commission Chairman Joe Mineo. He said they're working on getting the information out to residents. The town has already received some 70 petitions against the project. Residents interested in voicing their opinions are encouraged to attend Wednesday's town council meeting.

News **02/15/08** **11pm** **: 30**

The wells of six private homes have been contaminated by road salt on route 10 in Southamptton and Westfield. The State Highway Department treats Route 10 with road salt. Pioneer Valley Planning Commission principal planner Anne Capra says that two of the homeowners have filed a complaint with the state highway department.

News **02/15/08** **11pm** **: 30**

A South Hadley home on Dartmouth Street has been the center of a joint investigation between state, federal and local authorities. Inside they have uncovered dangerous materials and have effectively closed the road. South Hadley police, fire fighters, the state police fire

Marshall's office and A-T-F agents began going through items inside the house. South Hadley Police Lt. William Sowa saying the home has recently been showing up on their radar. And will only confirm inside, there are some undetermined hazardous materials. Residents have been removed from the house, but no one's been arrested.

News **02/22/08** **5:30pm** **: 30**

A barrel of crude oil closed just under \$99.00 a barrel today after hitting a record \$100.00 this week. And that high price is of course forcing people to pay more to heat their home. The going rate is \$3.35 a gallon for oil today at Central Oil. Marty Topor of Central Oil says in a four day period home heating oil went up .24 cents. When asked about locking in rates for next year, Marty said Central Oil will offer lock ins again, but probably not until late summer.

News **02/26/08** **6pm** **: 30**

Springfield is ranked one of the most environmentally friendly cities in America! Springfield was named the number four "Best Green City in America" by Country Home Magazine in 2007. And the city isn't taking this title lightly. Mayor Domenic Sarno's office, along with organizers, announced the plan for a Green City Forum. The event, organized and hosted by Springfield, will take place on April 4th. There will be presentations and discussions about green efforts and sustainability. The goal of the forum is to further environmental efforts in Springfield and within the Pioneer Valley. Organizers of the event are inspired not only by eventual economic payoff, but feel personally vested in the effort as Springfield residents. Whether you're a student or business owner, Springfield's Green City Forum could be a great opportunity to learn more about going green.

News **03/03/08** **6:30am** **: 30**

Improved recycling of paper products could earn communities in Western Massachusetts an additional \$1,000,000 a year. Right now 78 communities recycle an estimated 35,000 tons of paper products each year, but throw away another 25,000 tons. Communities are paid about 41 dollars per ton of recycled products.

News **03/03/08** **6:30am** **: 30**

Cleanup of PCB contaminated soil will begin this summer in Pittsfield's Dorothy Amos Park. The park is expected to close for much of this summer while General Electric removes PCB contaminated soil from the nearby Housatonic River Bank. GE cleaned the park in 1998, but that effort didn't extend to the riverbank. GE used PCBs until 1977, when the federal government banned their use. The toxin is suspected of causing cancer and other health problems.

News **03/04/08** **5:30am** **: 30**

In South Hadley a natural gas leak broke out at Mount Holyoke College. It happened just before seven o'clock last night. South Hadley Fire Chief David Keefe says that a natural gas line broke outside a plant that heats the campus. Officials on scene had to evacuate that

building along with another building that housed classes. They also had to block off several streets in the area from pedestrians and vehicle traffic.

News **03/04/08** **6am** **: 30**

The owner of a construction company in North Adams has been indicted on charges of illegal dumping of waste into sewer lines. Prosecutors allege that John Duquette, owner of Berkshire County Construction, ordered his employees to empty raw sewage into a manhole on the company's property after pumping it from commercial or residential customers.

News **03/10/08** **5pm** **: 30**

A new study is raising some serious questions about what's in our drinking water. An investigation by the associated press found trace amounts of prescription drugs in water that 41,000,000 people drink. Antibiotics, anti-depressants, estrogen were all found. Health officials say that it's impossible to completely prevent contamination. But at the Water Department serving the Springfield metro area, they say the state and federal government are monitoring the water, but they don't believe it'll turn out to be a problem here. In many places waste water rejoins the watershed. But in our area the treated water ends up in the Connecticut River and headed out to sea.

News **03/20/08** **11pm** **: 30**

A tractor trailer unit spilled more than 20 gallons of diesel fuel on interstate 91 in Springfield. State police responded to exit four on I-91 southbound. Troopers on scene said that the truck hit some type of debris in the road that punctured its gas tank.

News **03/31/08** **11pm** **: 30**

The clean-up continues at the site of that tanker truck explosion on I-91 in Chicopee. State officials don't expect it to last much longer. The State Department of Environmental Protection is overseeing the clean-up efforts. Spokeswoman Eva Tor says booms in the river will help contain any gasoline residue that might've spilled into the water. Because of the rainy weather, crews covered some of the contaminated soil down the embankment to Center Street to prevent any spillage. Tor says most of the clean-up has been completed.

The following is WWLP programming addressing Health during the 1ST quarter of 2008. These issues were addressed through our locally produced news programming.

News 01/2/08 6am : 30

The risk for colon cancer might be genetic. A study of two large families found they both carry a specific genetic mutation responsible for an increased risk for colon cancer. And both families share common ancestors that can be traced back to a married couple who sailed from England to America around the year 1630. Experts say colonoscopies and other preventive measures can help reduce the risk for colon cancer and find any abnormalities as early as possible.

News 01/2/08 6am : 30

Children with certain body abnormalities may have a higher risk for cancer. A study including children with cancer and children without discovered that children with major abnormalities, like curvature of the spine and arms and legs with different lengths, were significantly more likely to have cancer. Researchers say the genetic defects that lead to body abnormalities may play a role in the development of cancer.

News 01/2/08 6am : 30

Strong pain medications are given more often to white patients in emergency rooms than black or Hispanic patients. That's according to a new study of more than 300,000 visits to US hospitals between 1993 and 2005. On average 31% of white patients received Opioid narcotic drugs compared with 23% of African Americans, 24% of Hispanics, and 28% of Asian patients. The racial disparity was even greater for people who reported the worst pain and in children. Drugs meant to treat less severe pain such as acetaminophen and ibuprofen, were given more often to minority patients.

News 01/2/08 12pm : 30

Doctors always tell patients to eat well, avoid alcohol and decrease caffeine intake -- but they are learning that there may be even more links between food and fertility. Many women don't consider the role of their diets when they're trying to get pregnant even if they're having problems. Doctors say they're learning food may affect fertility more than you might expect. There are many reasons a couple could have problems conceiving. Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome affects about 5% of women of reproductive age.

News 01/3/08 12pm : 30

A new study shows 30% of patients who've had a heart attack and are hospitalized are not given electrical shocks called defibrillation. The defibrillators are used at home or in public

places, but not as much in hospitals. The procedure improved a person's chance of survival if administered within two minutes of a heart attack. 22% of patients who had delayed defibrillation survived, compared with 39% of patients who received the therapy much more quickly.

News **01/3/08** **12pm** **: 30**

The new law is all residents of Massachusetts must have health insurance. It requires people to be either on state health plans or purchase health insurance if they're working. People who haven't gotten health insurance will face a penalty. Next year, people will also face fines monthly for not having health insurance. The fine will be half of the lowest priced insurance that had been offered to them.

News **01/4/08** **12pm** **: 30**

If your ring finger is significantly longer than your index finger you may be at a greater risk for osteoarthritis in the knee - particularly if you're a woman. Osteoarthritis is a joint disease associated with physical activity and estrogen deficiency. A new study found an association between a large difference in the lengths of the index and ring fingers and an increased risk for osteoarthritis of the knees and hips. Even though men generally have shorter index fingers in relation to their ring fingers, it was women with uncommonly long ring fingers who were most at risk for knee osteoarthritis. The reason for this is unclear, but other research has linked finger lengths with hormonal differences.

News **01/4/08** **12pm** **: 30**

The highly contagious Norovirus, often called the stomach flu can be passed from one person to another through contact with computer keyboards or the computer's mouse. Norovirus is common in winter and is the most frequent cause of outbreaks of vomiting and diarrhea in the United States is often contracted in schools, at work and on cruise ships.

News **01/4/08** **5:30pm** **: 30**

A new test that can quickly detect 12 respiratory viruses may cut down on prescriptions for unnecessary antibiotics. The FDA has approved the X-tag respiratory virus panel, which detects and identifies 12 viruses, like the flu and the common cold within hours. The simple test is done with a swab to the back of the throat.

News **01/8/08** **11pm** **: 30**

A study funded by drug manufacturer Merck finds the experimental drug Taranabant helped obese patients lose weight and burn calories while resting. The 12-week study looked at 533 obese patients who took different doses of the drug. They found all doses spurred some weight loss with those taking the highest dose dropped the most pounds.

News **01/8/08** **11pm** **: 30**

Appendicitis and high blood pressure are just a sample of potentially fatal conditions that are easily treated when caught early. However, a new study finds the US doesn't compare to other countries when it comes to treating preventable illnesses. The study, conducted by the commonwealth fund, finds the US ranks last among 19 countries for deaths that could have been prevented. The study included acute illnesses like appendicitis, as well as illnesses that could have been prevented with screening like mammograms and colonoscopies.

News **01/9/08** **5am** **: 30**

Skin cancer of all types is the most common cancer in the US. Yet a new report finds most American adults engage in behaviors that increase their risk for the disease. Whether it's at the beach or on the slopes, many Americans do not wear sunscreen or protective clothing, and they do not spend time in the shade. The risk was particularly increased among young adults.

News **01/9/08** **5am** **: 30**

We've all been told to wear sunscreen when spending time outdoors... But new research indicates blocking too much of the sun may be bad for your health. In a new study, experts found people living in countries near the equator were less likely to die from major cancers than those in northern countries and they think Vitamin D may have something to do with it. They suggest people who don't spend time outdoors increase their vitamin d intake through diet and supplements. They also say creating sunscreens that allow UVB rays to penetrate the skin may help.

News **01/9/08** **6:30pm** **: 30**

Those who became extremely stressed in the days after the September 11th terror attacks could be suffering serious health problems. A new study followed a group of 1,800 adults before September 11th, in the day's right afterward and then for the next three years through health surveys and interviews. Researchers found those who were deeply stressed right after 9-11 were three times more likely than others to have heart-related problems over the next year or two. Those who were very stressed and continue to worry about terrorism are three to five times more likely to be diagnosed with heart disease.

News **01/10/08** **6:30am** **: 30**

The origin of the brain development disorder known as autism is unclear, but a new study published this week in the New England journal of medicine provides another piece of the puzzle. The study found that a chromosomal abnormality, specifically "chromosome 16" is either missing or duplicated in about 1% of people with autism. Researchers say their genetic findings can help families better understand the risk to additional siblings, and provide new hope for treatments.

News **01/10/08** **6:30pm** **: 30**

Women who carry a certain gene have an increased risk for breast cancer, but it may not be as severe as experts originally thought. Researchers studied nearly 2,000 women who had been diagnosed with breast cancer at age 55 or younger. They found not all carriers of the breast cancer genes had an equal risk for the disease. Relatives of women who had been diagnosed at a young age were more likely to develop breast cancer than women whose relatives got the disease after age 45.

News **01/11/08** **6am** **: 30**

Obesity and depression often go together and make each other worse in a new study of middle-aged women. Researchers say the two simply fuel each other because when people gain weight, they're likely to feel depressed about it, which makes it more difficult to lose weight. In a study of more than 4,600 women, those diagnosed with clinical depression were more than twice as likely to be obese. And obese women were more than twice as likely to be depressed.

News **01/14/08** **12pm** **: 30**

Getting a lot of fruit and vegetables into your diet may be a good and easy way to help prevent a stroke. Researchers measured blood levels of Vitamin C of more than 20,000 people, and followed them for about a decade. Those with the highest concentrations had about a 42% lowered risk for stroke. Experts say there is little credible evidence that supplements will do the trick; they say the best way to get vitamins is by eating a variety of fruits and vegetables.

News **01/14/08** **12pm** **: 30**

Your risk for developing arthritis may be connected to your height. A genetic study of more than 35,000 people finds evidence that genetic variants linked to osteoporosis may also play a small role in height. This confirms observations by doctors that shorter heights appear to be associated with osteoarthritis. A variety of factors such as genetics, diet, and even prenatal environment work together to determine how tall a person will be. These new genetic variants account for a very small piece of the complex puzzle.

News **01/14/08** **11pm** **: 30**

New statistics show that about 1,000,000 people in the United States suffer from painful shingles each year. It's caused by the Chickenpox Virus, and most commonly affects people over age 65. A shingles vaccine was approved in 2006, which is recommended for adults age 60 and older. These statistics were drawn from a survey of people before the vaccine was available to the public.

News **01/15/08** **6am** **: 30**

New research sheds light on why it can be difficult to lose weight. Brain scans of 18 study volunteers indicate that the brains of overweight people may not get the message when their stomachs are full. The study involved filling a latex balloon in participants' stomachs with

water and then asking them how full they felt. Heavier volunteers were less likely than their thinner counterparts to report feeling full when the balloon was filled. A certain area of the brain lit up when people felt full regardless of how full their stomachs really were.

News **01/15/08** **5:30pm** **: 30**

The study finds that the cholesterol lowering drug Vytorin fails to slow down the buildup of artery plaque. Tests show the drug does not reduce the chances of a heart attack in at risk patients', which calls into question the effectiveness of Vytorin and its sister drug Zetia. Baystate Medical Center Dr. Greg Giugliano says the drug has been proven to help with lowering bad cholesterol levels, but it may not prevent heart attacks. The two drugs are among the most widely prescribed medications on the market.

News **01/16/08** **6am** **: 30**

A diet rich in yellow veggies or dark, leafy greens and Vitamin E may help ward off cataracts as we age. In a study of more than 35,000 adult women, those who consumed the most nutrients called "Lutein" and "Zeaxanthin" had an 18% lowered risk of developing cataracts. Vitamin E also showed an apparent protective effect. Experts say Lutein and Zeaxanthin are also present in the eye's lenses and may protect against cataracts by filtering harmful light.

News **01/17/08** **6am** **: 30**

Researchers have identified genes that, when combined, increase a man's risk for prostate cancer by 400 to 500%. American and Swedish researchers studied the gene profiles of nearly 3,000 men with prostate cancer and over 1,500 men without the disease. They identified five genes that each individually increased a man's risk for prostate cancer.

News **01/17/08** **12pm** **: 30**

Pain can be a daily problem for many people suffering from sickle cell disease. That's according to a study of more than 200 such patients who recorded their levels of pain in a diary for about 6 months. More than half said they felt pain associated with the disease on a majority of days. Sickle Cell disease is caused by a mutation in a red blood cell gene that transforms smooth, round blood cells into c-shaped cells that can get stuck and clot. This can block blood flow to limbs and organs and cause severe pain.

News **01/18/08** **12pm** **: 30**

Recent studies published by the American Academy of Sleep medicine have focused on obstructive sleep apnea, which is a disorder that causes the body to stop breathing during sleep. Researchers say the disorder has been linked to high blood pressure, heart attacks, stroke and congestive heart failure. However, getting treatment for obstructive sleep apnea could help ease those risks.

News **01/18/08** **12pm** **: 30**

According to a new study the National Influenza Research Center found cashiers and others who work with large quantities of cash are more vulnerable to the Flu Virus. But until now medical experts only thought the Flu was transmitted through the air, now there's proof the virus is surviving on paper. Infectious disease specialist Dr. Marc Tribble says hand washing is the best method of prevention.

News **01/21/08** **6am** **: 30**

Four new studies implicate specific genetic variants associated with an increased risk for Lupus, an inflammatory disease where the immune system attacks the body's own tissue. The information might help researchers focus their attention on genes directly involved in the disease, which could eventually lead to new treatment options. Lupus is most severe in people with African, Asian and Hispanic backgrounds.

News **01/21/08** **12pm** **: 30**

New research shows hope for boys suffering from Duchene Muscular Dystrophy. The disease affects boys and is characterized by rapidly decreasing muscle mass. Patients are often confined to a wheelchair by age 12. But, researchers say they've been able to prompt the growth of healthy, working muscle cells in mice afflicted with this type of muscular dystrophy using embryonic stem cells from mice. After the stem cells were implanted, the treated muscles were much stronger and the mice had better coordination, though the improvement did not quite equal that of normal mice.

News **01/21/08** **12pm** **: 30**

A new study found patients with coronary artery disease who suffered from depression or anxiety disorders were twice as likely to suffer a major cardiac event compared to those without the ailments. About 27% of the patients in the study were affected by depression, over 40% showed signs of anxiety.

News **01/21/08** **11pm** **: 30**

A group of Connecticut residents is lobbying state health officials to kill deer to reduce Lyme disease. A representative of the Connecticut Coalition to Eradicate Lyme Disease says the abundance of deer is a public health hazard. Animal protection activists promise to fight any measure to kill deer.

News **01/22/08** **12pm** **: 30**

E. coli and certain other food borne illnesses can sometimes trigger serious health problems months or years after patients survived that initial bout. In interviews with the associated press, scientists describe high blood pressure, kidney damage, and even full kidney failure striking 10 to 20 years later in people who survived severe E. Coli Infection as children. While these conditions strike a small fraction of the millions of people who get food poisoning each year, experts say no one knows just how many people are at risk.

News **01/23/08** **5am** **: 30**

A new, long-term study of more than 10,000 adults indicates that work-related stress is linked with coronary heart disease. The risk for coronary heart disease was an average of 68% more for people under age 50 with chronic work stress than for people who said they had no stress at work. Researchers also say a stressful work environment is associated with other unhealthy behaviors such as sitting at a computer all day without exercise and a poor diet.

News **01/23/08** **6am** **: 30**

Fewer Americans are dying of heart attacks and stroke, according to data released from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Since 1999 age-adjusted death rates for stroke and coronary heart disease declined by about 25%. Experts attribute the decrease in deaths to a list of factors such as improvements in medication and technology and the fact that more and more people are able to receive timely surgery to open blocked arteries. The data also show racial and gender differences in the decline in heart disease death rates with women and African Americans at slightly higher rates than men and whites.

News **01/23/08** **6am** **: 30**

What you eat could impact whether you get cardiovascular disease or diabetes. Researchers looked at food intake in more than 9,000 adults. After 9 years of follow-up, they found that those who ate a diet heavy in refined grains, processed meat, fried foods, and sweetened or diet soda had a dramatically increased risk of metabolic syndrome, which is a group of risk factors that can lead to cardiovascular disease and diabetes. Researchers say that's especially concerning for our young children.

News **01/24/08** **6am** **: 30**

Driving may be dangerous for people developing dementia and Alzheimer's disease. A study of more than 100 older adults found those with early Alzheimer's had more accidents and did worse on road tests compared with those without cognitive impairment. Increasing age and lower education levels were also found to be associated with driving difficulties.

News **01/24/08** **6am** **: 30**

A review of research finds helmet use can reduce the risk for head injuries by 69% and death by 42%. It was unclear which helmets were most effective or whether they had an effect on facial and neck injuries.

News **01/29/08** **6am** **: 30**

A lack of exercise is associated with a lot of negative health consequences such as obesity, type 2 diabetes, even heart disease. Whether you hit the slopes or the gym, experts say exercise appears to influence the aging process. Researchers studied the length of "telomeres" which are sequences at the end of chromosomes in people. Telomeres tend to shorten over time, and may be a good marker of biological age.

Those who were most active had telomeres the same length as sedentary people who were 10 years younger.

News **01/29/08** **6am** **: 30**

In health news an experimental treatment for deep vein thrombosis is showing promise. DVT occurs when a blood clot forms in the deep veins, particularly in the legs. The clot can break off and travel to the lungs, which can be deadly. Researchers say they've been successful with a new anti-clotting drug, which is injected right into the clot. In the study, all were treated with the new therapy, and were also put on blood thinners. 80% had restored blood flow throughout the deep venous system during therapy.

News **02/04/08** **5am** **: 30**

The state is projecting that its landmark law extending health care coverage to nearly all citizens may cost taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars more than expected. The subsidized insurance program that provides free or subsidized insurance for low and moderate income residents is expected to double in size and expense over the next three years. Projections show the commonwealth care program reaching 342,000 people and \$1.35 billion in annual expenses by June 2011. That's more than anticipated for the commonwealth care program mainly because officials underestimated the number of uninsured residents.

News **02/04/08** **11pm** **: 30**

The federal government is expected to begin providing Medicare reimbursement to a small number of patients receiving fully implantable artificial hearts. The development follows recent decisions by three private insurers to offer coverage for patients receiving the Abioco heart, developed by Danvers-based Abiomed. The medical technology has been burdened in part by the \$250,000 cost of each device.

News **02/05/08** **5am** **: 30**

A national institutes of health study found certain variations in a gene help regulate response to stress and tend to protect adults who had been abused or experienced other severe childhood trauma from developing depression. Researchers hope the study might one day lead to treatments or interventions for children who live through such traumatic experiences.

News **02/13/08** **6am** **: 30**

Post traumatic stress disorder could cause long-term health problems. A new study based on examinations of more than 4,400 male Vietnam-era veterans, 30 years after their military service showed PTSD was just as good an indicator of a person's long-term health status as having an elevated white blood cell count. Soldiers aren't the only ones who can experience post-traumatic stress disorder. Experts say living through accidents and natural disasters can also increase the risk.

News **02/14/08** **6am** **: 30**

Older men who are diagnosed with early-stage prostate cancer may be able to delay treatment and safely opt to keep a close eye on the disease instead a study of more than 9,000 older men, half of whom were over age 75, found the disease had not become significantly worse a decade later in a majority of the men. In most cases, prostate tumors grow very slowly. Researchers said that while treatment is often necessary for younger men and those with more advanced stages, this study suggests many older may want to talk with their doctors about the "watchful waiting" approach.

News **02/14/08** **6am** **: 30**

A new study finds metastatic breast cancer patients can prolong the time it takes for their disease to worsen by taking the drug Avastin. Avastin is currently approved for colon and lung cancer patients. The FDA is reviewing the risks and benefits of prescribing Avastin for breast cancer patients; a decision is expected by February 23. In the study the drug was combined with chemotherapy and given to women who had not undergone chemo yet. The study was funded by drug manufacturer Roche.

News **02/15/08** **6am** **: 30**

A review of research concludes being overweight or obese does increase the risk for certain cancers. Among men increased body mass index raised the risk for esophageal cancer, thyroid cancer, colon and kidney cancers. In women increased body mass index was associated with an increased risk for endometrial, Gallbladder, Esophageal and kidney cancers. The association with colon cancer was stronger in men than women.

News **02/19/08** **12pm** **: 30**

State environmental officials say a Hadley farm has been using illegal antibiotics in their product. Hartsbrook Farm has also been cited for selling raw milk without a valid permit. Raw, or unpasteurized milk, can only be sold from a licensed farm where it is produced. Injecting antibiotics into raw milk is not allowed under state regulations. There have been no reports of illnesses.

News **02/21/08** **12pm** **: 30**

There's something about the combination of salt and sweets that many of us crave... And new research suggests cutting down on the 'salt' part of that equation, may help kids cut down on some sweets, too. Data analysis on more than 16-hundred boys and girls found that when they ate a diet lower in salt, they also didn't drink as many sugar-sweetened beverages. Researchers said that cutting salt intake by half ...translates into a decrease of about 2 sugar-sweetened soft drinks per week. Previous research has found modest reductions in salt intakelowers blood pressure in children...and the benefits of which may extend into adulthood. Experts also say this could significantly lower the risk for childhood obesity.

News **02/21/08** **6:30am** **: 30**

The state budget will be the topic of a public meeting at Westfield State College. Senate ways and means committee Vice-Chairman Stephen Brewer says lawmakers want to make sure Western Massachusetts has a voice in the 28-billion dollar budget process. The hearing at Westfield State will focus on health and human services. It begins at 10-am in the Woodward Center.

News **02/22/08** **6am** **: 30**

Next year's flu vaccine is on track for a complete overhaul to provide protection against three new and different virus strains, hopefully providing better protection than this year's version. Federal health advisers have unanimously recommended the new recipe, echoing the world health organization. The flu vaccine must be reformulated every year to keep up with the fast-evolving influenza virus. This year the government made a rare wrong bet on which strains would cause the most disease. 16 of the last 19 flu seasons had well-matched vaccines. Still, in the average year, the flu infects up to 20 percent of the population, and kills 36-thousand.

News **02/23/08** **6pm** **: 30**

A report from the Massachusetts Health Department has an unprecedented demand for three major childhood vaccines the Public Health Department has asked pediatricians to go easy on the vaccines that prevent meningitis, diphtheria and chicken pox. The associated press has heard from some doctors there may not be enough of the critical vaccine to go around. No one's been able to explain what's behind the run on these normally plentiful vaccines.

News **02/22/08** **6am** **: 30**

New Research finds moderate aerobic exercise can significantly lower the risk of stroke. The study included more than 60,000 adults who were followed for about 18 years. Their cardio-respiratory fitness levels were measured after walking on treadmills at increasing grades and speeds. Both men and women who were at the highest levels of cardio-respiratory fitness had at least 40% lower relative risks for stroke compared to adults in the worst physical shape.

News **02/25/08** **6am** **: 30**

An ongoing scientific study and public debate, over the potential health impact of chemicals used to make personal care products and plastics. Phthalates are a family of chemical compounds that soften plastic. Bisphenol makes plastics clear and strong. Evidence suggests these compounds may affect the developing reproductive system. The environmental working group Sonya Lunder says concerned parents can take steps to reduce exposure. Determining which products contain the chemicals isn't so simple, as they are not typically listed on labels. Lunder says; on plastics phthalates contain the letters PVC or the number three, and seven for Bisphenol, which is also in canned food.

News **02/25/08** **6am** **: 30**

In a new study researchers found patients who had several risk factors for stroke, including high blood pressure and diabetes, also had a high risk for cognitive decline. The study of 17,000 adults found those with the highest risk for stroke experienced cognitive decline twice as fast as those considered low risk. Experts say identifying these conditions early can curb a patient's risk for both stroke and memory loss.

News **02/27/08** **6:30am** **: 30**

Women with type 1 diabetes who skip insulin shots or take less than prescribed appear to die much earlier than those who take all of their recommended shots. A new study finds those who restricted their insulin died at an average age of 45; compared with nearly 60 years old for other women with type 1 diabetes. Restricting insulin was also associated with higher rates of disease complications. Researchers say the practice of regularly skipping shots was also associated with eating disorder symptoms in these women as well.

News **03/04/08** **6pm** **: 30**

A new study shows that women who take certain forms of hormone therapy may have increased health risks. Researchers of the woman's health initiative, a major federally funded study found cardiovascular risks such as coronary heart disease, blood clots, and breast cancer, and stroke increased in patients who took Estrogen and Progestin. Many of these risks didn't diminish even after they stopped using the drugs. Researchers say regular cardiovascular and cancer screenings are important for post menopausal women. They say women who feel they need hormone therapy should talk to their doctor about the risks and benefits to determine what's best.

News **03/05/08** **6am** **: 30**

While children of alcoholics are certainly at risk for developing dependence to alcohol, themselves, not all of these children will. New research indicates those most likely to go on to become alcoholics may have difficulty processing negative emotions. Using a type of MRI brain scan, researchers measured teens' responses to emotional words. Brain scans were different among those considered vulnerable to alcoholism. Compared with those considered pretty resilient, researchers think resilient teens may have an enhanced awareness of their emotional responses and may be less likely to react on impulse.

News **03/05/08** **5pm** **: 30**

A new study finds that a couple, age 65 retiring this year will need about \$225,000 dollars in savings to cover medical costs in retirement. The annual study by Boston based Fidelity Investments says that is a 5% increase over last year. The study blamed rising health care costs this year on more expensive doctor's visits, the rising cost of new technology, and the increased incidence of chronic conditions like diabetes.

News **03/05/08** **11pm** **: 30**

New study finds colon lesions that are hard to detect carry a high risk for cancer. Past research indicated flat lesions found in the colon were more common in Japan than the US, but researchers found 10% of American veterans screened in a recent study had these lesions. While polyps carry an increased risk for colon cancer, the researchers found the flat lesions were ten times more likely to develop into cancer. Researchers are planning more studies to find out if removing the lesions will lower the risk for cancer.

News **03/06/08** **11pm** **: 30**

Officials at the US Food and Drug Administration say they've found a contaminant in the active ingredient in some batches of a blood-thinner called Heparin. That is sometimes used during major surgeries to cut down on the risk of blood clots. The batches in question come from Baxter International Inc. There have been several deaths and hundreds of reactions associated with Baxter's Heparin, but the FDA stresses they cannot yet draw a "direct, causal link" from those incidents and the contaminant.

News **03/06/08** **12pm** **: 30**

About one in ten elderly adults report excessive drinking potentially increasing their risk for falls and medication interactions. The report includes data on more than 12,000 Medicare beneficiaries over Age 65. 9% said they drank more than 30 alcoholic beverages in a month or 4 or more drinks on any given day. Experts say older adults may be more sensitive to alcohol and may not metabolize it as easily as younger people. The vast majority of people in this study, 2/3, said they never drank alcohol, and a quarter said they only drank a little on occasion.

News **03/07/08** **5pm** **: 30**

Drinking alcohol in moderation can help your heart, even if you don't start until middle age. Researchers examined data from a 10-year study of non-drinking adults of which 6% began drinking moderately during the study. They found the new drinkers had a close to 40% lower chance of developing heart disease compared to those who didn't drink. After examining the data further, they found those whose alcohol intake included only wine had the most significant reduction in heart risks.

News **03/10/08** **5:30am** **: 30**

Prostate biopsy techniques over the last decade have improved so much that researchers suggest PSA testing may not be as useful in detecting cancer as it once was. PSA tests detect markers in the blood called "prostate-specific antigens." When the test was first developed high PSA levels generally correlated with positive biopsies. But now that researchers say biopsies are better able to detect lower grade cancers, they found the positive biopsy rate in men with low PSA levels was actually higher than for patients with higher PSA readings. Researchers say alternative blood or urinary markers may need to be identified for better detection of prostate cancer.

News **03/12/08** **6am** **: 30**

The Centers for Disease Control reports one in four teenage girls has a sexually transmitted disease. Even girls who say they've only had sex once have a one in five chance of being infected. The CDC screened more than 800 teen girls for HPV, the most common STD. Chlamydia, Herpes and Trichomonis STDs cost the US more than \$15 billion every year. The CDC is encouraging innovative solutions: Clinics in schools and doctors who treat both patients' and their partners.

News **03/21/08** **5am** **: 30**

The vaccine designed to prevent cervical cancer may be available to more women. The maker of Gardasil reports the Food and Drug Administration has granted the company a priority review to determine whether the vaccine can be marketed to women ages 27 to 45. Right now Gardasil is approved for girls and women ages 9 through 26. It works by blocking several types of the human Papillomavirus, which can lead to cervical cancer. A decision from the FDA could come sometime this summer.

News **03/21/08** **5pm** **: 30**

A phone survey of people with allergies, consumers and doctors finds allergy sufferers not only experience physical symptoms, they also have emotional side effects. More than 60% of people with allergies say it affects their mood. About half of sufferers felt annoyed and irritable.

News **03/21/08** **5pm** **: 30**

A bad sense of smell could be an early sign of Parkinson's disease. In a new study of 2,200 men, researchers found those with the lowest scores on an odor identification test were five times more likely to develop Parkinson's disease than those with the highest scores. Most of the men who developed the disease did so within four years of their failing sense of smell. The reason is not clear, but scientists say it may be because the brain degeneration that occurs in Parkinson's patients begins in the olfactory structures.

News **03/26/08** **5pm** **: 30**

Wealthy women are more likely to get a mammogram than poor women. In a study of more than 4,000 women over age 65, wealthier women were much more likely to have mammograms than poorer women. This was true even when poorer women were more likely to benefit from the test for breast cancer. Doctors say mammograms aren't always routine for women older than 65, especially when they are not likely to live an additional 5 years.

News **03/26/08** **5pm** **: 30**

General Electric has filed a new proposal for cleaning up PCB contamination in the Housatonic River. The plan calls for dredging a 10-mile stretch of the river over the next 10 years and storing the polluted sediment in a new landfill. Now banned, PCBs have been

linked to cancer and other health problems. GE used them at the company's Pittsfield manufacturing facility until 1977.

News **03/26/08** **5pm** **: 30**

Previous studies have shown that people who drink diet soda have a 41% increase in risk of being overweight. The risk was higher with increased diet soda consumption. One Baystate Medical Center dietitian says the key to weight loss is moderation.

News **03/26/08** **6pm** **: 30**

A new study suggests having a big belly in your 40s can increase your risk for Dementia or Alzheimer's disease later on. The findings show that abdominal fat poses a separate risk, as opposed to fat stored elsewhere. Even people who aren't overweight but have a good deal of abdominal fat are susceptible.

News **03/28/08** **6am** **: 30**

Encouraging new information about nursing homes shows fewer residents are being physically restrained. Nearly 6% of nursing home patients were reportedly restrained in 2006 down from nearly 10% in 2002. Experts say restraints were used more often decades ago mainly because they were thought to keep residents safe from falls. But now more and more long-term care providers are foregoing restraints, saying they can lead to depression, inactivity and sores.

News **03/28/08** **6am** **: 30**

Depression that can occur after suffering a stroke keeps many survivors from going back to work. A study of patients who had paying jobs in the month before their stroke found just about half were able to return to work within 6 months. Physical disabilities were the strongest predictor of not returning, but post-stroke depression also accounted for a large number of patients who stopped working. Researchers say that in high-income nations about 20% of strokes occur in people young enough to still be in the workforce.

News **03/28/08** **5am** **: 30**

If you think it might be faster to drive yourself or have someone drive you to the hospital when you think you're having a heart attack, you're wrong. In some counties that have upgraded their ambulances paramedics can diagnose severe heart attacks more quickly and alert doctors in the ER that you're on the way. Researchers say only about half of heart attack victims get to the hospital by ambulance, while others arrive to the ER on their own. They say if you arrive at the hospital on your own, you may be in line with dozens of others to get to the triage personnel.

News **03/31/08** **5am** **: 30**

In a new study, researchers looked at over 500 patients with Coronary Artery Disease -- a leading type of heart disease. Patients who were able to reduce their anxiety or keep it in check were 60% less likely to have a heart attack or die compared to those who had an increase in stress. Researchers say these findings show that cardiologists should be aware of their patient's psychological problems.

News

03/31/08

5am

: 30

Smaller hospitals are performing procedures to unclog blocked arteries even if they're not staffed with surgeons who could operate if something goes wrong. Researchers say advances in angioplasty have made it safer to perform such surgeries even in non-emergency cases. Angioplasty involves inserting a balloon into an artery, inflating it and putting in a stent to prop the artery open. No significant differences were found in the complication or success rates among hospitals with or without back-up heart surgeons.

The following is WWLP programming addressing Jobs during the 1ST quarter of 2008. These issues were addressed through our locally produced news programming.

News 01/04/08 12pm : 30

Unemployment is at its highest rate since November 2005. The Labor department says unemployment climbed to 5% last month, as employers increased payrolls by just 18,000. Stocks have lost ground so far today, with the major averages losing more than 1%.

News 01/04/08 6:30pm : 30

The governments expected to release its latest monthly unemployment report. Analysts expect the December rate to edge up to 4.8%. That would be a tenth of a percentage point higher than November. The unemployment rate is being watched closely by analysts to see if rising layoffs are tied to an economic slowdown.

News 01/04/08 11pm : 30

The job market has been pretty steady even in the face of the housing slump and energy prices. Retailers also trimmed payrolls, with weaker-than-hoped-for holiday sales. In all, the workforce gained only 18,000 jobs in December. Unemployment jumped to 5%, a two-year high. There is some new action from the Federal Reserve. The fed's now auctioning off more money to banks to ease the credit crunch. And after three interest rate cuts many see fresh pressure on the fed to cut rates again.

News 01/06/08 9am : 30

Republican insider David Balfour Jr. has been fired from his job at the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority. It's the latest cost-cutting by the agency's new executive director, Alan Lebovidge. A Patrick administration source told the associated press Balfour and Legislative Affairs Director Kevin Coen were fired. He was hired by the Turnpike Authority last year as director of commuter services.

News 01/08/08 6pm : 30

A University of Massachusetts study shows Western Massachusetts is not heading in a prosperous direction. Low wage jobs are growing exponentially in Massachusetts. As well-paid jobs are becoming obsolete. A University of Massachusetts publication says it's not a lack of job training, or a mismatch of skills, but a lack of opportunity, leading to retailers, cashiers and service personnel settling for nickel and dime jobs. Angela Hodkins has worked at Atkins Farms for 24 years and knows the struggle of balancing career and family. 59% of the low wage workforces are women.

News 01/11/08 6am : 30

Hasbro announced it will eliminate 200 jobs at its plant in East Longmeadow. Hasbro Senior Vice President Wayne Charness said the cuts were made so the company could remain competitive. Charness said 180 of the jobs are manufacturing union jobs. He said they are negotiating with the union, so at this point they don't know who is being cut. The layoffs at Hasbro will begin in February and continue for a number of weeks.

News **01/11/08** **12pm** **: 30**

The Chamber of Commerce in Springfield is addressing the findings of a recent report about that state of the workforce in Massachusetts. A book from UMass reports that there are very few good jobs and a lack of family friendly policies among local employers. Chamber President Russell Denver says there are plenty of job opportunities in our area for educated and trained people. He says many of those jobs can be found in health care, higher education and manufacturing.

News **01/18/08** **6pm** **: 30**

Sprint Nextel Corporation is planning to close 125 of its retail shops and eliminate 4,000 jobs. Starting at the end of 2008, the wireless phone company says it aims to cut \$700-800M a year in labor costs. To do so, the company plans to close 8% of its retail locations and 20% of its third-party distribution points. Company officials say they're preparing for an expected slowdown in subscriber growth and revenue. Sprint finished last year with more than 53,000,000 subscribers.

News **01/26/08** **6pm** **: 30**

A job fair at Bradley International Airport gave job seekers hope for their futures. With more than 300 lost in Western Massachusetts within the past month it's not a surprise that's many local job seekers are having a hard time finding employment. So what fields are hot and are providing jobs? Kevin Lynn of future works says health care, skilled manufacturing, and any industry that supports aerospace science.

News **01/31/08** **6pm** **: 30**

The Buxton Company has announced plans close their warehouse in Chicopee resulting in the loss of 65 jobs. They also plan to sell the building at 45 Plainfield Street. Buxton's consolidating all of its warehouse and distribution operations to the west coast. The company will keep its product development, accounting, customer service, sales and marketing departments in the Springfield area. Buxton's been in the Springfield area for 110 years.

News **02/01/08** **12pm** **: 30**

Microsoft would be offering \$44B in cash and stocks. The move would bolster both companies ability to compete with Google for online advertising dollars. Just last week Yahoo announced it was eliminating 1,000 jobs in an effort to cut costs.

News **02/01/08** **12pm** **: 30**

The latest unemployment report offers a fresh sign that the economy is in danger of stalling. The labor department says employers cut 17,000 jobs in January, the first reduction in more than four years. Economists had predicted that employers would boost payrolls by around 70,000. The figures suggest that employers have grown cautious as they try to cope with fallout from housing and credit problems and rising worry about the ailing economy.

News **02/02/08** **6am** **: 30**

One of the nation's largest disaster-response organizations is cutting a third of its workforce at its headquarters in Washington, DC. American Red Cross officials announced they will cut 1,000 jobs in an attempt to overhaul the charity's \$200,000,000 deficit within two years. Officials claim staff cutbacks will not weaken emergency response operations.

News **02/03/08** **7am** **: 30**

Thirty-three workers at the Salem public schools have been laid off, but the toll was much lower than it could have been. Nearly 60 school employees were set to be laid off after a mid-year deficit caused by questionable bookkeeping. But Governor Deval Patrick signed special legislation that saved the jobs of two dozen teachers and library aides. The laid off workers included teachers' aides, custodians and secretaries.

News **02/11/08** **11pm** **: 30**

In Franklin County Bureau an unanticipated budget deficit could put dozens of Greenfield teachers out of a job. After scraping and borrowing and appropriating, Greenfield has managed to reduce its budget shortfall by \$704,000, but the debt reduction wasn't enough to save teaching jobs from being cut. After some creative appropriating, transferring and borrowing, that shortfall has now been narrowed to \$225,000, but reading between the lines, that still means teachers jobs are on the chopping block. The mayor and superintendent say the surprise mid-year shortfall is the combined result of skyrocketing utility and transportation costs, contractual obligations and a lapse in budgetary oversight because a business manager left, but no matter which way you slice it, Greenfield is in a tight spot.

News **02/21/08** **12pm** **: 30**

Elms College in Chicopee will soon be looking for a new leader. President James Mullen tells trustees he's accepting a job as president of Allegheny College in Pennsylvania. Mullen has been at Elms for three years and will leave on August 1st.

News **02/28/08** **6pm** **: 30**

900 new jobs were added in Massachusetts in January. But despite that, the overall unemployment rate rose to 4.5%. The small job growth in January was caused mainly by gains in education and health services as well as in leisure and hospitality jobs.

News **02/28/08** **5pm** **: 30**

Today Liberty Mutual made a ten year commitment to the city of Springfield by signing a lease on Federal Street in the Springfield Technical Community College Park. The Boston based insurance company is opening up a call center there. Hiring begins in April and will be up and running by July. By year's end, 150 people will be working at their Springfield office. The site will host a variety of business operations. Liberty Mutual says over time the Springfield office will employ more than three hundred people.

News **02/29/08** **6pm** **: 30**

Six flags New England will re-open on April 12th, but before that happens they're looking to staff about 3,000 jobs. The amusement park in Agawam held its largest job fair of the season this weekend. Hundreds of applicants stopped by their human resources center on Main Street for on-the-spot interviews and hiring. With tough economic times it's no surprise that many are looking for supplemental income.

News **03/04/08** **5pm** **: 30**

In Holyoke, students gained insight on potential career options. 8th graders at Lynch Middle School learned about the career paths of several professionals in the area, including a Chef, a Record Producer and a News Anchor. The professionals had the privilege to talk to the students about their jobs on their last Annual Career Day. Lynch is closing at the end of the year; it's a money-saving move for the city. Students gave the event high marks. Other guest speakers included a Social Worker and a Hairdresser.

News **03/07/08** **5pm** **: 30**

Employers cut nearly 63,000 jobs nationwide last month, many say it's a true sign the country is heading toward a recession or perhaps it's already in one. The unemployment rate dipped to 4.8% last month down from 4.9% in January. The Futureworks Job Center in Springfield is doing their best to help find jobs for those right here in the Pioneer Valley. This year the center plans on helping out nearly 16,000 job seekers that walk through their front door.

News **03/12/08** **6pm** **: 30**

The Pioneer Valley hasn't been immune to the job losses going on across the country. But today, the Massachusetts Career Development Institute's 2nd Annual Community Job Fair in Springfield offered those in the job market a chance to connect with potential employers. Thirty different companies and businesses took part in the fair, full time and part time job seekers seeing what's available including many teenagers.

News **03/18/08** **5:30pm** **: 30**

The Baystate Visiting Nurse Association held a job fair to fill some home and hospice care openings. They're looking for registered nurses, physical therapists and home care professionals. There are full time, part time and per diem positions available, as well as weekday and weekend shifts. Applicants were interviewed on-site. The Association's

president says it's a challenging job market. The Baystate Visiting Nurse Association currently employs some 65 nurses in the Springfield area.

News **03/20/08** **12pm** **: 30**

The Massachusetts unemployment rate remains below the national average after holding steady at 4.5% last month. Losses among retailers and the construction industry were offset by job gains in a sector including professional, scientific and business services.

News **03/25/08** **5pm** **: 30**

The machine industry is looking to hire skilled workers that may be an opportunity for some locals. In the economic times, when some people are losing their jobs, the machinery industry is one field that's in need of employees and offering competitive wages. Jose Torres says he came to the Massachusetts Career Development Institute to help him make a career change to precision manufacturing. The Career Institute offers hands-on training with technology used in the machinery industry. The classes last for 10 weeks and are intended to give students a competitive edge for getting a manufacturing job position. Timothy Sneed says for entry level manufacturing positions the starting salary can range from \$40,000-\$50,000. Being proficient in math is a key component to machinery work.

News **03/25/08** **12pm** **: 30**

Agencies in Hampden, Hampshire and Franklin counties are splitting nearly 4,000 in state grants to help create jobs and training for teenagers. They include funds to help young people transition from state custody back into their home communities. Some programs also will help other get part-time jobs or earn their general equivalency diplomas in preparation for college.

News **03/27/08** **5am** **: 30**

College grads may have to spend more time pounding the pavement for a job, but it could be worth their while. According to Monstertrak, the majority of this spring's graduates can expect two or more job offers even as the number of employers who expect to hire drops nearly 20% from last year. The starting salary for a spring college graduate is almost \$40,000 (\$39,500) a bump of 10% from 2007.

News **03/27/08** **5pm** **: 30**

Some Massachusetts career development institute students are ready to start a new career in the manufacturing industry. Eight students graduated today from the institute's 10 week Machine Tool Technology Program. It's the first graduation since the program re-opened this year. These students had intensive hands-on training, and a few already have a job. MCDI will be conducting a second cycle of this tuition-free program in September.

The following is WWLP programming addressing Smoking during the 1ST quarter of 2008. These issues were addressed through our locally produced news programming.

News 01/02/08 5:30am : 30

There will be big changes for people visiting or working at Mercy Medical Center. The campus is a smoke-free environment as of the New Year. Under the new policy, staff, patients and visitors will not be allowed to smoke anywhere on-site, including medical office space and parking lots. Some say the smoking ban will encourage employees to kick the habit. Mercy Medical Center hopes this policy change will be seen as an opportunity for both employees and patients to kick off the New Year with a healthier lifestyle.

News 01/02/08 6pm : 30

With the New Year comes the sale of fire-resistant cigarettes in Massachusetts. State law now requires that cigarettes be sold with special paper to prevent smoldering if the cigarette is not being smoked. The law took effect yesterday in order to clear the current inventory of cigarettes. The owner of Cabot liquors in Chicopee supports the measure. The bill passed last July making Massachusetts the sixth state in the country with a law requiring the sale of "fire-resistant cigarettes".

News 01/25/08 5:30pm : 30

Massachusetts banded cigarette smoke in all public places in 2004. In 2007, South Deerfield ruled private clubs would be non-smoking as well. The Polish American Club wants its members to be able to have a designated smoking area outside, but the design it came up with was shot down by health inspectors. It wants permission to build an outside smoking porch and the club's quest for space is causing strife. The process is being slowed by legalities, design details and other technicalities. A regulatory tangle one selectman has even called "another exercise in our god-given stupidity." Members say they're being patient. The health board denied the design because with the blueprints submitted, much of the smoke outside would re-enter the club through windows and doors.

News 01/29/08 5:00pm : 30

A new study finds the number of tobacco related deaths are aggressively increasing and may double in the year 2020. Springfield resident, Amanda Stevenson says she's been trying for the past several months to quit smoking to improve her health, but more importantly the health of her daughter. A new worldwide survey by the center of disease control shows the number of tobacco related deaths have increased, with smoke killing five million people a year. Children surveyed said they were subjected to smoke at home and in the car. The New York Times noted at least 6,200 children die each year in the U.S. from second hand smoke. Springfield Pediatrician, Dr. Paul Salva says moms that smoke while pregnant are two times more likely to have a child with asthma, while children who are exposed to cigarette smoke

are more likely to have frequent ear infections. Dr Salva adds that although smoking has negative impacts on all ages, the effects on younger people can be even worse.

News **01/30/08** **6am** **: 30**

A new study finds the number of tobacco related deaths are aggressively increasing and children may be the ones most at risk. A new worldwide survey by the Center of Disease Control shows the number of tobacco related deaths have killed five million people a year. 6,200 of those deaths are children suffering from second hand smoke. Doctors say children who are exposed to cigarette smoke are also more likely to have asthma and ear infections Dr. Salva adds that although smoking has negative impacts on all ages; the effects on younger people are worse.

News **02/02/08** **6am** **: 30**

The FDA says it sees a stronger link between Pfizer's popular anti-smoking drug and serious psychiatric problems. The agency says it has received reports of 37 suicides and more than 400 reports of suicidal behavior in connection with the drug Chantix. The FDA has released a warning to patients taking Chantix advising them to tell their doctor about any history of mental illness. Patients and family members should also watch for any changes in mood and behavior.

News **02/05/08** **6am** **: 30**

A new study shows smokers are four times more likely to have difficulty sleeping than non-smokers. Researchers from Johns Hopkins measured the EEG sleep signals in the brains of 40 smokers and 40 non-smokers. They found smokers had trouble falling asleep and also spent less time in a deep sleep cycle. They speculate the nicotine in cigarettes stimulates the brain making it difficult to wind down at bedtime and as the night goes on, nicotine withdrawal makes it harder for a smoker to sleep deeply.

News **02/06/08** **6am** **: 30**

Smoking cigarettes might double your risk of developing colorectal polyps which can ultimately lead to colorectal cancer if left untreated. Researchers estimate that as many as a quarter of all colorectal polyps may be associated with smoking. The risk was found to increase by 13% for every ten pack-years a person smoked. A pack-year is equivalent to smoking one pack of cigarettes every day for a year.

News **02/08/08** **6am** **: 30**

The world health organization says tobacco is responsible for 100,000,000 deaths in the 20th century, and is on pace to kill one billion people in the 21st century unless governments intervene. A WHO report says governments collect more than \$200,000,000,000 dollars in tobacco taxes every year, but spend less than one-fifth of 1% on tobacco control. The agency is urging governments to raise tobacco taxes and prices, ban advertising and help those who are addicted.

News **02/11/08** **6am** **: 30**

In a new study researchers analyzed the sleep patterns of 40 smokers and 40 nonsmokers. They found over 20% of smokers reported a lack of restful sleep. They also found smokers spent less time in deep sleep than people who didn't smoke. Researchers suspect smokers start experiencing nicotine withdrawal during sleep causing them to wake up.

News **02/12/08** **11pm** **: 30**

House speaker Salvatore Dimasi now supports Governor Deval Patrick's plan to raise revenues by closing corporate tax loopholes. Dimasi has reversed his stand last year, when he called such plan A "catalyst to reduce jobs." to soften the blow to businesses, Dimasi's budget plan also calls for a reduction in the corporate tax rate over three years and a \$1 increase in the cigarette tax.

News **02/13/08** **5:30pm** **: 30**

Opponents are crusading for a nationwide ban on the sale of the lighters that resemble children's toys, all over the internet. Novelty lighters that look nothing like the traditional cigarette lighters that helped make cigarette smoking so fashionable for so many years. West Springfield's Fire Prevention Officer Deputy Chief Louis Lamothe wants novelty lighters outlawed to protect children who easily mistake these deceptively designed lighters for toys. The veteran firefighter says he's gotten reports that kids have suffered burns and started fires because these novelty lighters lack a safety mechanism. But just the thought of a government regulation banning these potentially deadly novelties troubles one parent we spoke with at the West Springfield public library she says parents should protect their children from such dangers. Just recently according to the U.S. Consumer product safety commission, one manufacturer of novelty lighters was forced to take hundreds of them off the market.

News **02/26/08** **11pm** **: 30**

Fewer high school students are smoking cigarettes. A new state study finds that the rate of high school smoking dipped from more than 20% in 2005 to under 18% in 2007. Since 1995, the rate of teen smoking statewide has been cut in half. The departments of education and public health study found that fewer young people are lighting up before age 13.

News **03/04/08** **11pm** **: 30**

The group "Tobacco Free Mass" is calling for an increase in the tobacco tax in the state. Currently, the Massachusetts tobacco excise tax is \$1.51 per pack. That's the fifth lowest among the six New England states. Dr. Gena carter of "tobacco free mass" says raising the tax by \$1.00 per pack would generate at least \$150,000,000 dollars in new revenue that could be used to fund programs to reduce tobacco use and help expand health care coverage to uninsured residents.

News **03/05/08** **11pm** **: 30**

In Northampton, the World War II Club was the center of controversy at the city's license commission meeting. The venue has been found charging patrons at the door for membership and also allowing people to smoke inside. That's in violation of the alcohol restaurant license they do have. At the license commission meeting they told the World War II Club to decide on if they want to be known as a club or a restaurant. In either case, they have to stop the smoking inside immediately.

News **03/06/08** **6:30am** **: 30**

Children around the world are at risk because of secondhand smoke, according to a new study. In a study of 13 countries, not including the United States, researchers found nicotine concentrations were 17 times higher in houses with smokers. And children under five living with a smoker had the highest levels of nicotine, twice as much as kids over age five.

News **03/22/08** **6pm** **: 30**

The law banning the use of marijuana will go to pot if Massachusetts Maverick Congressman Barney Frank has his way. Frank wants to legalize what he calls small amounts of marijuana. According to the Associated Press, the democrat congressman isn't specific about what he considers small amounts. He said it's time for politicians to catch up with the public, and locking people up for smoking marijuana is what frank calls pretty silly.